FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 OCTOBER 1980

American Hostages

Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, again addressing the hostage issue, said in an AP interview that the Majlis will decide on the fate of the hostages within the next 2 or 3 days. According to a report of this interview carried by Tehran radio's Arabic service, Rafsanjani said he could not predict the conditions the Majlis will set forth but he "believed" they would be the same as those announced by Ayatollah Khomeyni--presumably in a statement on 12 September when Khomeyni said the hostages would be "set free" upon the "return of the deposed shah's wealth," the "cancellation of all U.S. claims against Iran," a "guarantee of no U.S. military and political interventions in Iran" and the "freeing of all our investments." According to the Tehran Arabic report, Rafsanjani said the Majlis "might or might not ask" for a U.S. apology.

Tehran radio's Kurdish service reported that Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i met with the family of one of the hostages while he was in New York.

Iraq-Iran Conflict

Chatti Mission--Reporting Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti's 20 October meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni, Tehran radio and its Arabic service cited Chatti as asking Khomeyni to "permit" the formation of a mission consisting of the heads of some Islamic countries and to entrust it with "ending the war." According to Tehran radio, Khomeyni agreed to allow the mission into Iran to "investigate the crimes" of Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn. He then added that "anyone occupying our towns and villages would wish to have a cease-fire" but "this is something that will not do." He went on to state that if governments want to have "peace and calm," they must fight for it, and he then suggested to Chatti that "you Islamic governments" should "rise and liberate" the Iraqi people and see if they really want the Saddam Husayn regime. According to Tehran radio, Chatti also broached the subject of an Islamic mediation mission to Hashemi Rafsanjani, who told him that he would discuss it with "other responsible brothers" and give an answer "later." Kuala Lumpur radio earlier reported that Pakistani President Ziaul Haq had already appointed the mediation team to which Chatti was referring and that it would consist of Malaysian President Hussein bin Onn, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Chatti himself.

Khomeyni Speech--In a speech to the ambassadors of Islamic countries carried by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Khomeyni upbraided the Muslim countries for giving away their wealth to non-Muslims while their own people live in poverty, as was the case in Iran under the deposed shah. He went on to tie these comments in with the Iranian stand on revolution beyond its borders, explaining that Iranian talk about exporting revolution should not be "misconstrued as an intention to carve an empire." What Iran is trying to say, Khomeyni said, is that nations and governments should "wake up," as Iran did, and liberate themselves from domination, from a state in which their resources are being squandered while they live in poverty. Khomeyni also told the ambassadors that Iran does not fear political, economic and social isolation because the real "yardstick" of isolation is the extent of relations with nations rather than governments. The ayatollah called President Saddam Husayn "insane" and said he "must be tried in the same way that Carter must be tried," as he is acting only in his own interest and that of the United States.

Hammadi Warning to U.S.--In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN, reported by KUNA, Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi said he had "warned" the United States against abandoning its neutrality in the Gulf war during a meeting with Secretary of State Edmund Muskie at the United Nations. He stated that Baghdad is concerned that the hostage issue might prompt the United States into "entering the conflict arena" on Iran's side by supplying it with arms.

Military Situation--Tehran radio reported that the propaganda staff of the Supreme Defense Council changed the name of Khorramshahr city to Khuninshahr (City of Blood) in honor of the resistance put up by its forces on 16 October. The radio said the city is under heavy artillery fire and reiterated that it needs reinforcements to confront the enemy. It also carried an Iranian Joint Staff communique which said the Air Force had attacked Iraqi positions in the vicinity of Khuninshahr. Iraq's characterization of the fighting along the Shatt al-'Arab remained unchanged, with INA reporting that Iraqi forces are continuing to "purge" Khorramshahr of "pockets" of resistance and are "tightening" their siege of Abadan. Tehran radio said that Abadan is under intense mortar fire, that Iraqi troops are advancing parallel to the city and that Iranian aircraft attacked enemy armor on the Abadan-Ahvaz road and Iraqi positions across the river from Abadan. In the meantime, Baghdad radio's Persian service called on the residents and Iranian Army contingents in Abadan to "separate themselves from the criminal Khomeyni guards" and join the Iraqi forces, promising that no harm will come to them if they do.

An Iranian Joint Staff communique, carried by Tehran radio, claimed further successes on the western front, including Iraqi defeats on the Kor Mosh front and in the battle being fought in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area. Other Joint Staff communiques reported airstrikes on Iraqi concentrations on the Susangerd front and around Ahvaz and on ammunition depots and a radar installation in Iraq itself.

Tehran radio's Arabic service announced that the Iranian counterattack has begun, and in an interview reported by Tehran radio, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said if the current Iranian offensive goes as planned, Iranian forces will cross the Iraqi border and topple the Saddam Husayn regime.

Soviet Experts--Tehran radio's Arabic service reported that 1,000 Soviet "military experts" left Iraq a "few days" ago and said this demonstrates that the USSR has washed its hands of Iraq. The radio also claimed that Iraq had been unable to provide the Soviet advisers with "basic security and protection" from Iranian air raids.

Raja'i Travel

Tripoli radio reported that Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i arrived in Tripoli on 20 October en route home to Iran from the United Nations. The radio said Raja'i met with Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, but it gave no details on the talks. Tehran radio reported Raja'i's return to Tehran on 21 October.

Egypt

In an interview with AL-AHRAM, reported by MENA, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said that the Washington meetings involving Egypt, Israel and the United States "did not achieve any progress" on the main issues and that the only thing "worth mentioning" to come out of them was an agreement to hold a tripartite conference. Ghali said the meetings, which he described as a series of bilateral sessions between the United States and Egypt and the United States and Israeli, could not be described as a resumption of the autonomy talks.

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CHATTI OUTLINES FIRST-STAGE AIMS IN GULF MISSION

LD201527 Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Oct 80 p 3

[Paul Balta dispatch: "If the Conflict Continues for Long It Will Have Incalculable Consequences for the Two Countries, Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti Told Us"]

[Text] Baghdad--"I am undertaking this second good-will mission at the request of the Islamic Conference Council of Ministers to urge Iraq and Iran to cease hostilities," Islamic Conference Organization Secretary General Habib Chatti told us on Thursday, 16 October, after arriving in Baghdad from Amman the previous night. "Indeed," he added, "if the conflict continues for long, it will have incalculable consequences for the two countries, for the Gulf and for the Arab states as well as for the emerging Islamic movement. It also poses enormous risks of intervention by foreign powers. The U.S. Navy is already on the spot. President Carter has powers to act if he deems it necessary, but that would not be in the interests of the Gulf countries or in the interests of peace."

The nonaligned countries have held a meeting in New York but have taken no decision on the conflict, probably because they consider that the Islamic Conference has more chance of making its voice heard at a time when, furthermore, the Security Council is preparing to meet.

Mr Chatti thinks that the ground is more favorable for his second mission, owing to international pressure on the warring parties and the reactions of world opinion, which wants a return to peace in this troubled region. He also considers "encouraging" the fact that the two sides agreed to this mission. In addition, he said, "If the two sides consider that the situation is not right for negotiation, I will point out that the continuation of the war or of the status quo will make it even less right, because the sum of grievances will be increased and all the accumulated disputes will be more difficult to solve." Mr Chatti hopes, therefore, that his mission will pave the way for mediation. The mission, he said, "could be extended to other members of the Islamic Conference Organization, which will then define what should be done in the second phase."

However, our interlocutor did not underestimate the difficulties facing him. The main difficulty is the analysis made by each of the two countries. Iraq, whose economy is sound and has not been disorganized like Iran's, can hope to win by maintaining the positions it now holds. Such a situation could encourage either autonomy for several regions, or Iran's collapse, or the accession to power of the military, with which Baghdad could reach agreement. On the other hand, Iran could hope that the discontent which would be engendered by a long war would cause problems for the Baghdad government, although it enjoys support from most of its Arab neighbors and is not isolated on the international plane.

For his part Mr Chatti thinks these gambles "extremely dangerous," and he intends to say so to his interlocutors. He also said that King Husayn, with whom he had a long meeting, is not giving military aid to Iraq and that, while he advocates Arab solidarity, his main concern is to end the war, as the other Gulf Arab countries also wish.

PLO FORMS 4-STAGE PLAN TO END IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT

LD201912 Tunis TAP in English 1423 GMT 20 Oct 80

["Pool" item]

[Text] Beirut, 20 Oct (TAP-QNA)--The PLO elaborated a multi-stage plan to put an end to the Iraq-Iran armed conflict, and is highly optimistic as to its acceptance by the two parties, declared Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), member of the Fatah Central Committee in an interview on Sunday by the weekly MONDAY MORNING published in Beirut.

According to the Palestinian leader, this plan comprises 4 stages:

1. A cease-fire

2. Iraq is to announce its willingness to withdraw its troops to the frontiers determined by the 1975 Algiers agreement and those determined by the 1913 Constantinople agreement

3. Iran is to announce its willingness to immediately start negotiations with Iraq in a neutral country after withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Iran.

4. The Islamic or nonaligned countries are to watch over the withdrawal of Iraqi forces and this withdrawal is to be followed up by negotiations between Iraq and Iran.

Abu Iyad further expects the Coordination Bureau of the nonaligned countries--which is to meet shortly--to send a delegation to Tehran and Baghdad whose mission would be to bring about a cease-fire, establish a date for the cease-fire and the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Iranian territory and to lead up to direct negotiations between the 2 belligerent parties.

FATAH REPRESENTATIVE CALLS FOR JIHAD TO LIBERATE JERUSALEM

LD201702 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Speech by Rafiq an-Nashtah, member of Fatah Central Committee and Fatah representative in Saudi Arabia, at 20 October ceremony in Mecca to offer greetings to King Khalid on occasion of 'Id al-Adha--recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the most compassionate, most merciful. Grace and blessing be upon the chief messenger and leader of the mujahidin Mohammad. God's grace and blessings be upon him, and upon his kinfolk and his companions and on those who follow his path to the day of judgment.

Your Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Your Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Your Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, commander of the national guard and second deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; all you Muslims:

We greet you with a true Muslim greeting, bearing with it the echo of Palestine and the (?lights) of the Al-Aqsa Mosque [words indistinct]. We greet you with the greetings of the steadfast mujahidin of the sons of our people who are waging valorous battles every day against the usurping Zionist enemy. Jerusalem's grace and blessings be upon you.

Your Majesty, Your Royal Highnesses, all you Muslims: We, living the finest Islamic days in the holy land of Islam, to which Muslims from all corners of the world have flocked to respond to God's call to attend the pilgrimage reiterating the immortal words "We obey, Oh God, we obey; we obey, Oh God, we obey", who have attended the pilgrimage rites and have traveled to God's blessed house and visited the town of the messenger of God--God's grace and blessing be upon him--are unable to visit Al-Aqsa Mosque because it is under Zionist occupation.

The Muslims have lifted their hands to God pryaing to remove the affliction from the Al-Aqsa Mosque. They have also prayed to God with sincerity to send to this nation a leader from among its sons to lead the jihad factions to liberate Palestine and to save Al-Aqsa from the talons of the Jews who soiled Islamic and Christian holy places. Al-Aqsa Mosque has not escaped their aggression nor has the Church of the Holy Sepulcher escaped their aggression. That church remained unharmed under Islamic rule since the time Islamic rule came to Palestine.

Your Majesty: Our people have not forgotten your call to your army last year to prepare for the liberation of Al-Aqsa. Our people will not forget the call of His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz for a jihad to liberate Palestine and the occupied Arab territories. Our people, just as Muslims in all parts of the world, pray God to grant you success to give the battle call [i'lan an-nafir] and to take arms to open the road to Palestine so that the sons of Islam may rush to their first service, (?offering) victims and martyrs to the war and washing away the disgrace of occupation with blood. The sons of Islam will not spare their lives for the liberation of Palestine [words indistinct].

Your Majesty: As you know, it has been impossible for us to return to our country through negotiations, agreements and conferences. There is nothing else before us and before the Muslims except the path of jihad, fighting, struggle, armed combat. History has proved that what was taken by force can only be regained by force. We have in the messenger of God--God's grace and mercy be upon him--a good example in what he did to the enemies of God, the enemies of Islam, the Jews, who break the covenant and who shed blood, who harbor ill will against Islam and its people, who look forward to occupying new Islamic territories. God's messenger made covenants with them and they broke them, and he fought them with the sword and drove them away from their (?strongholds) and cleansed the Arabian Peninsula of them.

Today they declare the unification of Jerusalem, to make it Israeli forever. Will the Islamic world accept this arrogance? Will the Muslims be content merely to complain? Will they respond to the jihad call, the call to fight in order to destroy their [word indistinct], to destroy their arrogance in order that Jerusalem may be unified under the banner of Islam. God said: Fight them, till there is no persecution and the religion is God's.

Muslims in these blessed days, more than any other time, are called to unite and to rally the ranks to face the assault against us [words indistinct]. God loves those who fight for Him in solid ranks. It is painful to see Muslims fighting each other, while their homelands are under foreign occupation. We call on Muslims everywhere, especially those responsible, to shoulder their responsibilities and halt the fighting among our warring Muslim brethren. The Koran says: If two parties among the believers fall into a quarrel, make peace between them; but if one of them transgresses beyond bounds against the other, then fight against the transgressor until he complies with the command of God.

It is astonishing to see Muslims fighting each other with all the might they possess [words indistinct], using against each other the most modern weapons, while we do not see this in their fight against the enemy of God and their enemy, Israel. It is as if (?none of them has read the book) of Almighty God: "And hold fast all together by the rope which God stretches out for you; and be not divided." It is as if they have not read the words of God: "And fall not into disputes, lest you lose heart and your power depart."

We, in these blessed days in which God responds to prayers, cannot but sincerely pray to God to guide the Muslims and (?rally) their ranks to fight their first enemy, Israel, and those who are behind Israel.

Your Majesty, Your Royal Highnesses, all you Muslims: We send you the greetings of our steadfast people in the occupied land, those who are under the yoke of Zionist occupation, those who are fighting the [word indistinct] with the simplest weapons, with stones, with demonstrations by strikers; the fedayeen are fighting the enemy from their hideouts, the students in their schools; the enemy is being fought by the workers and peasants, is being fought by the prisoners in their prisons. The cowardly enemy displays his power over them while they are defenseless, [words indistinct].

We pledge to our people in the occupied land that we will remain faithful to the revolution and that we will lay down the rifle and return to them triumphant, God willing. [Words indistinct] (?supported by Muslims and the government of Saudi Arabia). We are confident that the Zionist enemy will not (?extinguish) the flame of our people's steadfastness and struggle even if they pull down all the houses, even if they cut off all (?limbs), even if they kill all prisoners [words indistinct] continue steadfast and fighting in bloody [word indistinct] battles from the battle of Al-Karamah to the battle of [name indistinct] the fortress of Salah ad-Din al-Ayyubi and to continuing battles linking our nation's glorious past with its future in which the dawn of victory will rise after [words indistinct].

Your Majesty, Your Royal Highnesses, Muslim brothers: I take this happy and blessed opportunity to offer His Majesty King Khalid, his government and the noble people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, loftiest expressions of gratitude and appreciation for the support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia extends to the Palestinian revolution and for its attentions to the sons of our people. We beseech almighty and omnipotent God to give us the opportunity to welcome you in Palestine to express to you our genuine appreciation, and to hold prayers of thanks to God for his victory in Al-Aqsa Mosque and its cleansing from the enemies of God, the enemies of humanity. They believe this is remote, but we believe it will be soon. Victory is for the all-beloved and all-wise God. God's peace and blessing be upon you. [applause]

FATAH'S KHALAF SAYS PLO 'NEUTRAL' IN IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT

LD161421 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 14 Oct 80 p 10

["Part" of an interview given to Kamil Fa'ur by Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf in Beirut--date not specified]

[Text] Beirut--[Question] How do you justify your neutral stand regarding the Iraq-Iranian war?

[Answer] I will speak frankly. We have good and strong relations with the Iraqi regime and fraternal and national ties with the Iraqi people. As far as the Iranian revolution is concerned, this revolution has toppled the shah, upset the balances of power in the area and thus turned Iran from a state all of whose capabilities were dedicated to serving America and Israel into a state that is hostile to America and Israel. This being our view of these two states, what ought our stand be when a war breaks out between them? We are against this war and against its continuing.

We have labeled it a war between rams in which Iraq and Iran will both lose their horns. The Iraqi and Iranian horns represent a force on our side politically, economically and militarily. The war could destroy both sides. We believe that America is behind the game. There are also those who provided the reasons for the two sides to declare war against each other so as to push things into open conflict. What attitude can we take on all this? It is not in our interest to lose Iraq or Iran. If we stand with Iraq for the reasons I have mentioned, that would mean losing Iran and its supportive stands toward our people. If we stand with Iran against Iraq, that would not be gratifying to the people who have well-known ties with the Iraqi people. In this situation, it is as if we are required to take a stand against ourselves because the two sides are with us. To this I would add that the picture is not confined to Iraq and Iran. The war will have political and military consequences throughout the area. The United States now has an excuse to intervene directly. This possibility exists and its aim is to internationalize the oil and put it under the direct control of America. The war will also result in the destruction of two countries' economy and armies. In fact, we are not neutral; we are with the two states. A neutral attitude is that of a spectator. We are not spectators. On the contrary, Abu 'Ammar, who is very sick, travelled 5,000 miles overland to get to Tehran and Baghdad. Anyone who travels so many miles while sick cannot be neutral. Those who are encouraging Iraq to continue the war are against Iraq and those who are encouraging Iran to continue the war are against Iran and Iran's interests. Therefore, our stand is that this war should stop by any means. That would have been easy to achieve at the beginning but now the conditions are difficult for the two sides. Our efforts are concentrated on finding a way for the two sides to end the war.

Therefore, we are the losers in this war, not those who are encouraging Iraq and Iran. This war could bring America back very strongly into Iraq and Iran, in addition to its power in the Gulf and Saudi Arabia.

The Phase of Small Wars

I believe that the phase of small wars has started. If we were to ponder some of As-Sadat's recent statements on his attitude toward Libya, we would reach the conclusion that the United States is now trying to involve the area in endless small wars. As-Sadat wants to hit at Libyan steadfastness, and capabilities. We would not be surprised if the fire of a new war was kindled between Algeria and Morocco. All this will be the consequence of the Iraqi-Iranian war. We will continue our efforts to end the war. We might be harsh toward one of the two sides in order to achieve this aim. I personally have been harsh toward Iraq because it started the war and we could also be harsh toward Iran. The question is that we are aware of the dangers that are threatening the two sides. This prompts us to do the impossible to stop the war.

I would like to say that the Soviet Union is in the same dilemma as we are with regard to this war. The Soviets are very displeased at this war. They have a friendship treaty with Iraq and good relations with Iran. So what are they to do? They have urged us to continue our efforts and we are prepared to do so.

[Question] But Iraq has territorial claims on the Shatt al-'Arab. What are the...

Salah Khalaf interrupted me to say: I am not discussing these demands. I am discussing the war. I say that these demands could have been postponed for some time and an agreement could have been reached on them by any peaceful means. In any case, neither Iraq nor Iran is in need of territory.

The problem is not one of territory. The problem lies in the absence of good relations between the two sides--there is no dialogue of discussion. The reasons for this are numerous and you are aware of them. As far as we are concerned, we have criticized the irresponsible statements of some Iranian officials, but when the war broke out the problem became more complicated. Land has been occupied and the one whose land has been occupied is saying that he has the right to recover it from the occupier. The other side is saying that it cannot withdraw before achieving some political gains. This is a difficult situation. For this reason, I say that the question is one that goes beyond territorial claims and the Shatt al-'Arab. I repeat that since we succeeded in finding a formula for a relationship with the shah, it would be more appropriate for us to do the same thing with the Iranian revolution. Rather, we must do that. Our attitude toward the two sides has been sincere. We are now in the process of studying a plan for a solution which we will present to the two sides.

[Question] Can we learn the outlines of this plan?

[Answer] It is a peaceful plan that will be presented to the two sides. One of its clauses is that Iraq announce its return to its borders. When Iraq makes this announcement, the Iranian side will in return announce its agreement to negotiate with Iraq in a third country and in the presence of a third party. We hope that we will succeed in producing this plan and that it will be accepted. I point out here that the United States has sent to Saudi Arabia four radar planes which would further inflame the war. These planes can jam Phantom and F-14 planes as well as Iraqi equipment, because they can be used with respect to bother Eastern and Western equipment, altough more effectively with regard to Western equipment.

The most serious thing would be the internationalization of the issue because if it is internationalized we would become like pawns in a terrible game. Finally, I say that the continuation of the war would mean victory for America regardless of Iraq's and Iran's intentions.

HABASH REPORTEDLY BEING TREATED IN COMMUNIST COUNTRY

LD2ı0915 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 21 Oct 80

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Oct (KUNA)--A Kuwaiti paper today reported that George Habash, leader of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], is paralyzed on the right side of his body. AL-WATAN, quoting sources it describes as reliable, states that Dr Habash was moved to Syria after an operation at American University Hospital in Beirut. After this he went to one of the communist countries to undergo treatment. The report states that a slight improvement has taken place in the health of the Palestinian leader after survey to remove a blood clot on the brain. However, it says that his treatment may take some time and "will not be brief."

BAHRAIN

PAPER CRITICIZES CONTINUED DETENTION OF U.S. HOSTAGES

NC181653 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in English 1625 GMT 18 Oct 80

[Text] Manama, 18 Oct (GNA)--The Bahraini weekly newspaper AL-ADWA' criticized continued detention of U.S. hostages in Tehran. The paper confirmed that this problem would shortly be converted, with the continuation of the Iraq-Iran armed conflict, into some sort of deal.

In its commentary today the paper affirmed that the weapon used by the leaders of the Islamic revolution in dismissing the American influence from Iran would be reused by America to return to Iran from a wider door.

The paper pointed out if this deal took place, this means that the Iranian revolution's achievements would be something of the past.

The paper said that Iran sold its principles of liberating the country from American influence and its hegemony in the area at a cheap price in the form of a deal in which the problem of releasing the U.S. hostages would be used as a bribe in exchange for ammunition worth a few million dollars.

AL-ADWA' said: Wasn't it more beneficial for Iran to stop its war with Iraq and to solve the friction between the two neighbouring countries by peaceful means either through UN or the Islamic mediation?

The paper concluded its commentary by listing the reasons behind such an American deal and said that the U.S. wants for this war to continue in order to weaken the two warring countries and to boster U.S. President Carter's election campaign to give him a better chance to be re-elected.

SAUDI ARABIA

KING KHALID RECEIVES IRAQI FINANCE MINISTER

LD201820 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1640 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Text] Jidda, 20 Oct (SPA)--His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received at his office in Jidda this evening Iraqi Finance Minister Thamir Razuqi, who is currently on a visit to the Kingdom.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation; and His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy.

21 Oct Departure

LD211054 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Oct 80

[Text] Jidda, 21 Oct (SPA)--Thamir Razuqi, Iraq's minister of finance, left Jidda today after paying a visit to Saudi Arabia during which he met with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. He was seen off by Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, and a representative from the royal protocol and Shafiq Praji, Iraq's ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

PAPER ASSAILS AL-QADHDHAFI CRITICISM OF AWACS ACCEPTANCE

LD201101 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 12 Oct 80 p 1

[Editorial: "No, Your Excellency The Colonel"]

[Excerpts] True to their custom in dealing with political matters and to their Arab, Islamic and international policies, officials in the Kingdom have ignored the "innovations" of the illustrious leader of the 1 September revolution, His Excellency Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, whose basic material this time was the Kingdom's use of four U.S. AWACS reconnaissance aircraft. His excellency called for the return of these aircraft.

The Kingdom's officials, as men shouldering great responsibilities to the nation, have persistently ignored such "Qadhdhafi-ite innovations," above all because they are busy with matters of destiny and with discharging their responsibilities to their Arab and Islamic nation and therefore hold their peace. Unfortunately, this silence seems to encourage His Excellency Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to come up with more such "innovations."

We on AL-JAZIRAH, out of concern for our national Saudi, pan-Arab and Islamic responsibilities, would like to ask his excellency the colonel:

First, how does he deem it fit to ask the Kingdom to return the four AWACS aircraft to the United States? Did he understand that these expensive and highly sophisticated aircraft were merely a modest U.S. gift to the Kingdom and not the fruits of Saudi efforts and pressure to obtain such a boost to the Kingdom's air defenses and, therefore, to the defense of Arabism and Islam?

Let His Excellency Colonel al-Qadhdhafi know that the AWACS aircraft are not children's toys or games but a sophisticated weapon from which the Kingdom benefits, the Kingdom being a state that has linked its destiny to the destiny of its Arab and Islamic nation and does not indulge in empty rivalry, compromise of bluff. Therefore, the Kindgom pays the highest of prices and offers the greatest sacrifices in order to obtain whatever boosts its strength and the Arab and Islamic strength.

Second, the Kingdom does not put colored masks on its face, which is clear and open and reflects its mind and conscience as well as its belief and commitment to stands. It is not accustomed to conceal its actions because it is not ashamed of what it is doing day and night. Its stands and actions are declared with the loudest of voices, exactly as they have been in the matter of these four U.S. reconnaissance aircraft.

We would like to ask his excellency the colonel why he raises in his right hand the slogans of pan-Arab unity, going so far in his enthusiasm for it as to shed blood in some instances, and yet with his left hand offers enemies of Arab nation the tools to destroy it and to divide its unity. Take, for example, your excellency the colonel, your attitude to the war between Iraq and Iran--two Islamic states. Should you not, as an advocate of unity on the pan-Arab level, have chosen--that is, if you had to make a choice--to stand on the side of Iraq as an Arab state, in accordance with your advocacy of unity? That is, if you could not adopt a neutral stand toward war between the Islamic states?

But you chose the non-Arab side in the war which, Your Excellency, has put you in a position contrary to your slogans, that is, unless your slogans are not based on any binding principles but are merely slogans designed for empty rhetoric, whose value is only temporary and vanishes with the echo of the voice with which you shout them.

UAE

CABINET SESSION HELD TO DISCUSS HIGH PRICES

NC161223 Doha QNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 16 Oct 80

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Oct (QNA)--UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan will preside over an extraordinary cabinet meeting immediately after the Al-Adha holidays to adopt urgent measures for the price control of consumer goods and foodstuffs, which are rising irrationally.

This was stated by the UAE Minister of Finance and Industry Shaykh Hamdan ibd Rashid who said that at its recent session the cabinet discussed the bases for checking the mad rise in prices.

Shaykh Hamdan ibd Rashid held the merchants responsible for the price rise and said that although the country was adopting a policy of free economy and trade, the current high prices denote the merchant's greediness and exploitation of the emergency situation through which the Gulf area is passing.

In press statements published here today, the finance and industry minister said that one of the alternatives to be discussed was that the state should intercede by setting up state cooperatives which would import and sell consumer goods at reasonable prices on the one hand and control market prices on the other.

IRAN-IRAQ WAR PRODUCING HIGHER FOOD PRICES

GF210745 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 19 Oct 80 p 3

[By Roger Sargent]

[Excerpts] To feed an army is big business. To feed an army that is fighting and the population that is now giving its food to its soldiers is an even bigger business; and it is this bigger business which is now biting into the UAE's supply of fresh fruits and vegetables. The army that needs feeding today is the Iraqi Army, camped around Abadan and reportedly tightening its grip on the burning oil city.

Before the war the trucks that carried fresh fruits and vegetables from Syria, Egypt and Jordan, drove dust-covered all the way to the markets of Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah. Talk to any fresh fruits and vegetable importer today and they will tell you that this is no longer so.

Abdullah Khury and Sons, who operate out of a small office near the Dubai-side creek front and is one of the Emirates' major food importers, has received only three truck-loads of fruit and vetetables in the last two weeks. The trucks are being rerouted, by order of Jordan's King Husayn, directly to Iraq as part of the Jordanian policy of aiding Iraq in its conflict with Iran.

The Jordanian monarch has said that he will, if necessary, send troops into Iraq to help the Iraqi forces. At the moment he is sending vegetables.

According to the truck drivers who have somehow passed through Jordan and arrived in Abu Dhabi, the directive is arbitrary. There is no choice. The trucks are diverted to Iraq where the fruit and vegetables are offloaded. Once empty, the trucks return to Syria, collecting more produce and trying again to get through to the UAE.

Even if they pass through Jordan they have still to go through Kuwait. There they are offered high prices for their cargoes by profiteers who sell the food to Iraq at prices which a country at war will pay.

The truck drivers who arrived at Dubai's warehouses and cold storage plants say that the prices offered are more than would be paid in the UAE. When there is a war nobody is too concerned about "contracts" which may have been made to deliver goods to Dubai or Abu Dhabi.

War encourages the open market philosophy. And in the open market it is money, not promises, that counts.

More food is being bought in Saudi Arabia, too, which, with the influx of hundreds of thousands of pilgrims, is lying in stores. Like the feeding of soldiers, the feeding of pilgrims is also big business.

Truckers who can get their vehicles through Jordan and then Kuwait find there are good prices to be had in Saudi Arabia.

If this were not enough, the food that is coming into the United Arab Emirates on ships is costing more. All traders speak of the increased insurance rates and freight charges. Khury and Sons say that from Europe some goods are carrying a 30 percent insurance premium increase, while Al-Harbi Foodstuff, Trading and Refrigeration Company said fresh fruit coming from India and Pakistan is carrying a four percent insurance premium increase as a result of the Gulf being declared a war zone. The increased cost of insurance will, inevitably, be passed on the wholesalers who, in turn pass it on to retail outlets and the customers.

Despite the government's concern, there is no hard evidence yet of massive price increases in the stores and supermarkets. Choithrams, for example, have said that they have no price increases planned at present, but add in a cautionary tone that it might become necessary.

The rising cost of food is likely to unsettle the UAE's aim to hold inflation this year to between 12 and 15 percent. The previous year's figure was around 35 percent so the target--a practical one--was seen as a healthy economic sign that would have a stabilising effect on commodity market prices.

In a recent study of the UAE's economy, and particularly inflation, a team of economists from Al-'Ain University outlined solutions to inflation and stressed that the primary cause is still what it has always been: imbalance between supply and demand.

In the UAE, it seems the demand is slowly beginning to outstr[illegible] the supply. But that is inevitable when the major trading routes run through an area where there is an army to feed, and why, this week you can, if you want, pay 120 dirhams for a case of tomatoes.

PDRY

FORMER MINISTER REPORTEDLY IN DETENTION NEAR ADEN

LD180910 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0719 GMT 18 Oct 80

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 18 Oct (KUNA)--A Kuwaiti paper reported today that the former PDRY foreign minister, Muhammad Salih Muti', is currently being held in a camp near Aden and has been accused of dealings with an Arab state opposed to the leftwing regime in south Yemen. AL-WATAN, quoting sources it described as informed, reported that this link was uncovered by two officials in the Foreign Ministry who "confronted Muti' with documents incriminating him and reports about his contacts with the aforementioned side." However, it did not name the Arab state with which he had dealings.

Quoting its sources, the paper said that "one of the counts" against Muti' "is that he exceeded the political and organizational framework of the party through contacts he used to have with tribal chieftains in the rural areas close to one of the Arab states."

YAR

PRESIDENT SALIH DISCUSSES YEMENI RELATIONS

LD201211 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Oct 80 p 3

[Yunis Muhammad Ishaq interview with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in San'a' "on the 18th anniversary of the Yemeni revolution"]

[Excerpts] [Question] The new government in Aden under President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has shown flexibility and maturity in its new relations with the Arab countries. This began when the president, immediately after assuming office, held contacts with the Arab countries with the aim of mending fences with them. How far has this diplomatic step affected relations between South Yemen and North Yemen?

[Answer] We consider what happened in Aden an internal affair concerning the brothers in the southern part of the country. What matters to us is that our relations are on the right path on which there is understanding and agreement in a positive manner.

[Question] Yemeni-Saudi relations are constantly on the upswing, particularly in the development of cooperation between the two countries. Would you explain this cooperation to us?

[Answer] We have intimate and developing relations with the Saudi Arabian Kingdom founded on a clear and strong basis of good-neighborly relations, mutual respect and sincere and constructive cooperation in the interest of the two fraternal peoples and of their continued growth and development. There is a growing and expanding field of cooperation and bilateral coordination, including economic, social and developmental activities in general. We look forward to such cooperation and coordination covering all the fields of our relations in view of the importance of neighborly and close ties.

[Question] What about your relations with the major powers, particularly the Soviet Union and the United States; and, is it true that U.S. experts are still training the armed forces?

[Answer] We have good relations with the United States and the Soviet Union based on our commitment to our principled policy in the international arena--a policy of openness in relation to all the peoples and countries that reciprocate our feelings and of non-alignment and positive neutrality. Our policy involves first and foremost commitment to Yemen's higher interests, which governs our view and evaluation of our relations with the big powers and of how we can benefit from their experience and high scientific potential.

[Question] Somalia has agreed to rent the Berbera base to the Americans. What is Yemen's attitude toward the presence of foreign bases in the area and what is your comment on the presence of Russian bases in Aden and Ethiopia? Do not you think that they constitute a danger to the area?

[Answer] We are not at all in favor of the idea of the presence of foreign bases in the area and seize every suitable opportunity to advocate the need to keep foreign dangers away from the area because the presence of such forces undermines the security, stability and peace of the area. In fact, the security and safety of the area are more assured when it is kept out of international conflicts and is immune to infiltration of foreign influence.

[Question] Some people interpreted South Yemen's tilt toward Libya and Syria during President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's recent visit to Tripoli and Damascus as indicating basic differences of views between you and South Yemen on the method of achieving unity. Do we understand from this that unity between your countries is going to take longer to achieve and what we may call "guarantees" for the success of this plan may take longer to come?

[Answer] This is not true; and the proof is that immediately after his visit to Syria, President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad came to San'a' in order to participate with us in the celebration of the 18th anniversary of the revolution and to continue the dialogue for the achievement of Yemeni unity as well as to discuss many issues and matters of national and international concern to our peoples.

[Question] How do you sum up the internal situation in northern Yemen? Are there difficulties or clashes with certain factions inside the country?

[Answer] I can assure you that our country, thank God, is enjoying stability and security, and people have actually begun to feel a general reassurance, which has created in the country a suitable climate for building, development and spreading the benefits of revolution to all the Yemeni areas, including those areas which lived in deprivation until recently. This confirms that security and stability are well established and reflects the strength and firmness of the state through its various organs.

GHALI DISCUSSES PLANNED VISIT TO ISRAEL, AUTONOMY TALKS

NC222249 Cairo MENA in English 2225 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)--The recent Palestinian autonomy talks in Washington represented no advance but produced a new method of procedure that might lead to success, [Minister of State] for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said tonight.

He added that the Washington talks were to prepare for a tripartite summit conference.

In an interview with Cairo television, Dr Ghali said, "After a year of futile negotiation, we decided that a summit conference should be held to overcome the difficulties."

In Washington, he added, the American side presented a working paper. The American side did not inform the Egyptian side of the Israeli paper nor did it inform the Israeli side of the Egyptian paper, because of the gulf between the two parties.

The American side will send a working paper to Egypt and Israel before the date of the resumption of negotiations on November 17, he added.

Asked about President Carter's opposition to Israel's annexation of Jerusalem and Ronald Reagan's non-opposition, Dr Ghali said the United States Government was committed to the principle that Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the West Bank. "We must differentiate between official commitments and election (?statements)," he added.

He said that he would be proceeding to Israel within the next few weeks at an invitation from Israel Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in return for the latter's recent visit to Egypt. He added that the visit would be important because it would promote the process of the normalization of relations between the two countries so as to demonstrate to Israeli public opinion and political parties that the peace process should go on in earnest.

Radio Interview

NC201657 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1244 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Interview granted by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali to Cairo radio correspondent--date and place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] To begin this interview we would like an assessment of the autonomy negotiations and the bilateral meetings which were held in the United States.

[Answer] The tripartite meeting which was held in Washington last week is actually a part of the Egyptian diplomatic effort to help the Palestinian people. It is worth noting the military confrontations among the Arab states: These confrontations are represented in the dispute between Iran and Iraq, a military confrontation between Morocco and Algeria, and a disagreement between North and South Yemen. These disagreements and confrontations are naturally at the expense of the Palestinian question. Egypt is the only state which is continuously working for the sake of the Palestinians. Egypt acts and participates in international forums and it struggles diplomatically, alongside the U.S., to achieve the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

A tripartite meeting was held in Washington last week. However, intensified bilateral contacts between Egypt and the United States and Israel were held before this meeting. The bilateral contacts or the bilateral discussions were held on a technical level at first: Egyptian Foreign Ministry experts met with U.S. State Department experts. The contacts were then held on a ministerial level. Several meetings were held in New York and Washington. The last was a tripartite meeting.

The object of these bilateral meetings was to pave the way for the formulation of a U.S. working paper. What was the method followed? Egypt submitted a working paper to the U.S. side and Israel did the same. The U.S. side did not present the Egyptian paper to the Israeli side nor did it present the Israeli paper to the Egyptian side because the U.S. will present a new working paper which will take into consideration the Egyptian demands and the Israeli stands. Consequently, we found out that during the negotiations the bilateral character dominated the tripartite character. This does not mean that we did not convene a tripartite meeting; we held a tripartite meeting and agreed to fix 17 November as a date for holding a technical meeting to study a new U.S. working paper. This paper will be based on the Egyptian working papers--Egypt submitted more than one paper--and on the Israeli paper. This American paper will be debated by the committee which will convene on 17 November. If approved, after some amendments, this will be the working paper that will be presented to the heads of state and debated at the summit conference.

[Question] Does this mean that the tripartite meeting that was recently held discussed nothing other than an agreement on the date of the next meeting--17 November?

[Answer] Actually, the meeting concerned itself with a procedural aspect: That is the date of convening the next conference, and with views regarding the summit conference. However, it discussed other questions as well. The Egyptian papers included demands for the adoption of measures to build trust in the West Bank and Gaza district. In other words, the papers included demands for the adoption of new measures to encourage the participation of the Palestinians in the negotiations and demands for the release of political prisoners and the adoption of new technical measures to create a new political atmosphere in the West Bank and Gaza sector. These papers were discussed at the tripartite meeting. We discussed what should be done to change the political atmosphere in the West Bank and Gaza sector and encourage the Palestinian people to view the peace process in an optimistic, and not a pessimistic way, because, naturally, of the arbitrary measures which the Israeli Government adopted in the past few months.

[Question] At a time when Egypt was demanding the creation of an atmosphere conducive to the achievement of better results at the autonomy negotiations, Israel committed aggression against Lebanon. What is the effect of Israel's actions on the outcome of the autonomy negotiations?

[Answer] The attacks on Lebanon and the Israeli Government's arbitrary measures are undoubtedly obstacles in the path of peace. We must strive to remove these obstacles. Moreover, the establishment of a new settlement is a new obstacle in the path of peace. The only way to overcome these obstacles is to hold more negotiations and contacts with the United States and the friendly states so that they may in turn contact Israel and explain the situation to Israeli public opinion. This is the only way to stop the arbitrary Israeli measures and the obstacles which obstruct the peace process.

[Question] What is your assessment of the impact, particularly on the autonomy negotiations, if U.S. President Carter fails to be re-elected?

[Answer] Naturally, Egyptian diplomacy--the Foreign Ministry--has prepared various plans and strategies. It has prepared a diplomatic plan which it will follow if President Carter is reelected. It has also prepared another diplomatic plan which it will follow if President Carter is not reelected and Reagan is elected instead. These plans are prepared on the basis that there will be (?no) change if President Carter is reelected, because the same U.S. administration will continue and the political and diplomatic leadership, with whom we have been dealing with the past 3 years, will remain unchanged. Consequently, we will be able to continue the negotiations, discussions and contacts at the various levels.

However, should Reagan, the Republican representative, be elected, then the diplomatic and political leadership with whom we have been dealing with the past 3 years will change; they would be replaced by a new leadership. Consequently, this will require us to have a new plan to acquaint ourselves with this new leadership and contact them to explain anew the Egyptian stand and views on how to consolidate peace in the Middle East. This would naturally require a new method of action for various intensive contacts with the new leadership. In both cases, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is ready to deal with any changes and act accordingly.

[Question] On the basis of this, will the 17 November meeting be postponed if U.S. President Carter is not reelected?

[Answer] It is difficult for me to confirm that the 17 November meeting would or would not be postponed; we must wait for the results of the elections. The holding of the meeting or its postponement might be decided in the light of the results of the elections and the new contacts which would be held afterwards. It is my view that this meeting would be held in any case because it is a mere preparatory meeting.

[Question] Is it likely that the Iraqi-Iranian war will have an effect on the interest of Europe and the United States in the Middle East crisis?

[Answer] The Iraqi-Iranian war has undoubtedly had a serious impact in that the Palestinian question and is being viewed as a secondary priority issue while the Iraqi-Iranian war is receiving the full attention of world public opinion.

ACTING AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL COMMENTS ON RELATIONS

TA201422 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Text] The acting Egyptian ambassador in Israel, Charge D'Affaires Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Ali Basyuni, said that the Egyptian committee on normalization will arrive in Israel on 4 November to discuss with the corresponding committee in Israel the advancement of normalization. He said this during a visit to the Israeli broadcasting station in Jerusalem.

Referring to President Navon's visit in Egypt, Basyuni said that the people in Egypt welcome the president. The Egyptian ambassador in Israel, Sa'd Murtada, decided to remain in Egypt in order to participate in the preparations for the visit and will not return to Israel a few days before the visit as was previously planned.

CHIEF OF STAFF ABU GHAZALAH RETURNS FROM LONDON 21 OCT

NC210917 Cairo MENA in English 0900 GMT 21 Oct 80

[Text] Cairo, Oct 21 (MENA)--Chief of the Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces Lt Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah returned here early this morning from London at the close of a weeklong visit to Britain.

He held there talks with the officials in the British Armed Forces which aimed at promoting military cooperation between the two countries.

SOCIALIST PARTY CALLS ON AS-SADAT TO HEAR OPPOSITION

LD201333 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 13 Oct 80 p 1

[Excerpt] At its meeting Tuesday under the chairmanship of Mustafa Kamil Murad, the Liberal Socialist Party general secretariat demanded that President as-Sadat meet opposition party leaders to explain matters to them and to hear their views and discuss with them important national issues such as the statements regarding providing Israel with water from the Nile and the facilities Egypt is giving to the United States and West European countries.

The general secretariat of the Liberal Socialist Party appealed to President as-Sadat to devote himself to major national issues and questions of destiny. It said that President as-Sadat, as head of the Egyptian family, should be an arbiter among parties and not a party to them. It said that this would give the parties full opportunity to grow naturally and equally without distinction among them. It would also facilitate dialogue and criticism in a healthy atmosphere and prevent power brokers and proponents of the one-party system from imposing their views.

The general secretariat pointed out that the amendment to the Consultative Assembly Law is a stumbling block to any party, with the exception of the ruling party, that wishes to participate in bringing about the success of the democratic experiment.

The general secretariat members said that President as-Sadat should be the spiritual father of all the parties as long as these exist in accordance with the law and within the framework of patriotism, socialism, democracy and social peace, so that there is political balance among the parties.

The general secretariat expressed concern over the economic crisis we are experiencing and decided that the Liberal Socialist Party should submit its own plans for solving these crisis at the beginning of the next People's Assembly session in November. The party's special committees have completed drafting these plans. It was also decided that the party will submit the answers of its special committees to the statements made by the ministers at the National Democratic Party committees.

The general secretariat called for the need to put forward an Egyptian initiative to restore Arab detente, and asserted that present conditions in the area call for a rapid Egyptian move on all the official and popular levels in order to achieve such detente.

HAMMADI WARNS U.S. AGAINST INVOLVEMENT IN CONFLICT

LD210850 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 21 Oct 80

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Oct (KUNA)--It is reported here today that Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has said his country has warned the United States against the consequences of abandoning its neutrality and becoming a party to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict by supplying Iran with arms. In an interview published by AL-WATAN of Kuwait, Dr Hammadi said he conveyed his country's stand to U.S. Secretary of State Edmund Muskie at a meeting between the two held at the United Nations. He added that the United States, which announced its neutrality in the armed conflict which broke out between the two countries about a month ago, must not become a party to it "by supplying Iran with arms."

The Iraqi minister said that what concerns Baghdad is that the crisis of the American hostages detained in Iran for almost a year should not prompt Washington to enter the conflict arena on Iran's side by supplying weapons in return for the release of the hostages.

The United States, through President Carter, yesterday expressed its readiness to restore its relations with Iran to normal if Tehran releases the 52 hostages, and it stated it will cancel the overall trade ban directly imposed against Iran after the detention of the hostages because the United States is interested in seeing a state like Iran "strong, independent and enjoying peace."

Dr Hammadi said the representatives of a large number of states at the United Nations were "disappointed" by the stand adopted by Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i at the international organization last week regarding the conflict with Iran. He added that thoughts of international plans to end the war raging between the two countries have begun to fade after hearing Raja'i's speech at the Security Council in which he stressed that any international resolution would not commit his country to anything unless the Iraqi forces were first withdrawn from Iranian territory. However, in spite of this, the Iraqi minister predicted the continuity of "international efforts" to end the crisis.

He denied Iraq has set any conditions for halting the fighting, merely stating that it wants to ensure its "basic rights." He said these rights are: Iraq's complete sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab and over Iraqi territory which Iran has occupied, and Iran's non-interference in Iraq's affairs and in the affairs of the other Arab countries bordering the Gulf. "And these are not conditions, but logical principles in international documents and they are the core of the principles of nonalignment."

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUES 20-21 OCT

Communique No 91

JN201702 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1652 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Communique No 91 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 20 October 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Our valiant forces have dealt punishing blows to the forces of the racist Magian enemy, inflicting losses in lives and equipment in the operational sectors, as follows:

I. The ground forces:

A. Known enemy losses:

1. In personnel: 11 killed.
2. In equipment: Four tanks, four vehicles and one field gun were destroyed.

B. Our losses:

1. In personnel: 15 martyrs.
2. In equipment: Three vehicles of various types [were destroyed].

II. The air forces:

A. One enemy fighter plane was shot down in the southern sector of the theater of operations.

B. Our planes hit enemy artillery and vehicles on the Abadan-(Shaykh Budayr) axis, inflicting heavy losses.

All of our planes returned safely to the homeland.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 October 1980

Communique No 92

JN211030 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1003 GMT 21 Oct 80

[Communique No 92 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 21 October 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Our victorious forces continue to deal blows to the enemy's concentrations and positions, inflicting great losses in life and equipment on him. The results of our units' activities in the operations sectors were as follows:

I. The ground forces:

A. Known enemy losses:

1. In personnel: 38 killed.
2. In equipment: One personnel carrier, one armored car, three vehicles and one gun were destroyed.
3. Our forces captured one tank, one personnel carrier and one 106-mm gun. All are serviceable.
4. One vehicle carrying Khomeyni guards was destroyed.
5. Supply dumps in Khosrowabad were destroyed and blown up.
6. One fighter plane in the southern sector of the theater of operations was shot down.

B. Our losses:

1. In personnel: 24 martyred.
2. In equipment: One personnel carrier and three vehicles were destroyed.

II. The air forces:

A. Enemy planes raided civilian targets this morning. Our ground defenses intercepted them, forcing them to flee, as follows:

1. At 0655 and 1030 enemy planes raided As-Sulaymaniyah, aiming at residential areas in the city.
2. At 0700 enemy planes raided the Al-Faw area, aiming at civilian installations.
3. At 0900 enemy planes raided Al-'Amarah, aiming at residential areas.
4. At 1050 enemy planes raided 'Aqrah, aiming at residential areas.

B. Our losses as a result of enemy raids:

1. In personnel: Two martyred, four wounded civilians. One civilian car was destroyed, four houses in the Al-Faw area demolished, one child martyred and several houses in As-Sulaymaniyah damaged. Also, one person was martyred and four others wounded in 'Aqrah.

C. This morning, our planes raided the enemy's military and economic targets, inflicting grave losses on them as follows:

1. Enemy positions north of Dezful were hit and destroyed.
2. The Veys oil tanks north of Ahvaz were hit and set afire.

All our planes returned safely to the homeland.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 October 1980

SOUTHERN COMMANDER REPORTS ON FIGHTING NEAR ABADAN

JN202138 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Text] Our valiant forces continue to deal devastating blows to the remnants of the racist Persian enemy in all sectors, inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment. In a statement to the INA team in the southern sector, the commander of the southern sector said: Our units continued their operations today to purge the city of Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] and to completely eradicate the pockets of Persian forces and Khomeyni guards. Our forces surged forward after destroying the (Ad-Daj) camp and occupying the officers' quarters near the camp, purging them of Persian pockets.

The commander added that a large number of Iranians surrendered to our forces. Our forces continue to operate deep in enemy territory on the Abadan axis, dealing punishing blows to the remnants of the defeated enemy and inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment on the enemy. He explained that our forces are tightening their control over the approaches to Abadan, while our artillery and air force continue to pound the enemy positions and destroy its armor and vehicles.

The commander of the southern sector said that the state of the enemy in Abadan is extremely bad, in view of its inability to stand fast against our valiant forces, which are tightening the noose.

HUGE OIL STORAGE TANK FIRE RAGES IN AL-'AZIZIYAH

NC210656 Paris AFP in English 0648 GMT 21 Oct 80

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Oct (AFP)--Iraqi firemen today were fighting to master a major fire in an oil storage tank hit by Iranian bombers Sunday in the Al-'Aziziyah region 80 kms (50 miles) southeast of the capital here, informed sources said.

The blaze in the storage tank, one of five in the area, was described as being almost as spectacular as the huge fire at the thermal power station here in Baghdad which burned from 27 to 30 September.

Meanwhile, Iraqi forces have been sending here captured Iranian tanks, notably British Chieftains, and other spoils of war. These are being temporarily displayed near the People's Stadium.

SADDAM HUSAYN TERMS COUNTRY'S ECONOMY 'STRONG'

JN201520 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Oct (INA)--President Saddam Husayn has stressed that we are ready to defend our honor, sovereignty and independence with our blood, for blood becomes cheap when shed in defense of honor, dignity and sovereignty. This came in a speech made by President Saddam Husayn here today when he received a number of information establishment heads and Iraqi men of letters. The president said: We want our people and our nation's sons to live in honor and dignity.

The president explained that Iraq continues to enjoy a strong economy, despite the war it is waging against the racist Persian enemy, in view of the leadership's accurate economic planning and the people's high sense of patriotic responsibility.

At the outset of the meeting, which was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of information and culture, President Saddam Husayn reviewed the role of the Iraqi information media under the current circumstances and their tasks in serving the crucial battle and in consolidating the domestic front. He underlined the fact that at this historic stage in the life of our people and of the Arab nation, the role played by the information media and men of letters is extremely important in consolidating the victories being scored by our triumphant army on the eastern flank of the Arab nation.

ENVOYS CONTINUE MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS

Japanese Foreign Minister

JN171243 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Oct 80

[Text] Tokyo, 17 Oct (INA)--Jasim Muhammad Khalaf, minister of higher education and scientific research, met here today with Japanese Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ito.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed developments on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland and Iraq's peaceful stand before and since the fighting with Iran began.

The Japanese foreign minister showed understanding of Iraq's stand and its response to the resolutions of the UN Security Council and Islamic Conference Organization calling for a cease-fire in order to achieve peace and security in the region and in the world.

The Japanese minister praised the strong relations linking Iraq and Japan, expressing his country's desire to continue bolstering these relations.

Mahmud Departure

JN191135 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 19 Oct 80

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA)--Irrigation Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud left Baghdad today as President Saddam Husayn's envoy to eight Latin American countries, Cuba, Mexico, Guyana, Ecuador, Venezuela, Jamaica, Brazil and Argentina.

In a predeparture press statement, the envoy said that he is carrying messages from President Saddam Husayn to the leaders of the above-mentioned countries. The messages convey Iraq's views of the situation on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland. The messages also explain Iraq's legitimate and just rights over its land and waters usurped by the Persian regime in Iran.

It is to be recalled that during the past 2 weeks, President Saddam Husayn's envoys had conveyed similar messages to 27 heads of states in Africa, Europe and Asia in addition to the Arab Gulf leaders.

Haddad Return

JN201831 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Oct (INA)--National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad returned here tonight after conveying messages from President Saddam Husayn to the heads of state of the following six socialist states: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Poland, the GDR and Hungary. The messages delivered by Haddad during his 2-week visit deal with developments resulting from the racist Persian aggression against the eastern flank of the Arab nation and with Iraq's peaceful stand both before and after the eruption of the fighting between the two countries.

Tanzanian President

JN211106 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 21 Oct 80

[Text] Dar es Salaam, 21 Oct (INA)--Hashim 'Aqrawi, President Saddam Husayn's envoy and minister of state, conveyed the president's message to Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere during their meeting here today. The message deals with the situation on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland.

Following the meeting, 'Aqrawi held a press conference during which he exposed the dimensions of the Iranian regime's expansionist and aggressive policy in the Arab area. He reiterated Iraq's endeavors to reach a just solution that would guarantee Iraq's rights within full sovereignty over its land and waters.

BAGHDAD COMMENTARY CLAIMS STRONG U.S.-IRANIAN TIES

JN201824 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Day by day, the false halos and masks camouflaging the nature of the Khomeyni regime and this regime's agentry to U.S. imperialism are falling. As ferocious battles are raging on the battlefronts and Iraqi victories are being achieved, as the Persian army's forces are being fragmented and their remnants are retreating in terror before the advancing and victorious Iraqi Army, the Iranian rulers are slowly showing the true colors behind their masks. Indeed, they are clearly showing the extent of their subservience to Washington and are exposing their close and fateful ties with the U.S. Administration.

No sooner had it been announced that Iranian Prime Minister Raja'i was visiting the United States, under the guise of attending the UN Security Council meeting on the Iranian-Iraqi conflict, than the Carter administration and its mass media and propaganda organs proceeded to affirm their great concern for the unity of the Iranian territories and to denounce the so-called Iraqi attack on Iran, thus expressing this administration's strong rejection of the partitioning of Iranian territories. Indeed, U.S. President Jimmy Carter himself declared Washington's rejection of the so-called attempts to partition Iranian territories, while expressing Washington's readiness to offer spare parts and to meet Iran's demands for sophisticated weapons for use in its war with Iraq.

In fact, the Carter administration paved the way for a political and diplomatic atmosphere suitable for Raja'i and his delegation to go to the UN Security Council. The U.S. and Western press and mass media, which revolve in Washington's orbit, quickly proceeded to attach importance to the Iranian stand, not to mention the secret meetings between Raja'i and the U.S. officials, which dealt with developments in the war and with the issue of the U.S. hostages and their barter.

All of these covert and overt U.S. moves--the active contacts conducted between Raja'i and the members of his delegation with the U.S. officials; the conspicuously biased statements by Carter and officials in his administration in favor of the Iranian stand; and the various issues proposed to the UN Security Council pertaining to the armed Iranian-Iraqi conflict--affirm with certainty that there exist subservient ties linking the Iranian rulers to the orbit of U.S. strategy and that there is an obvious U.S. custodianship over the Khomeyni regime.

It has also been clearly affirmed that all that has been or is being said about a dispute between the Iranian rulers and Washington is merely a means of camouflage and distortion to which the Iranian rulers have resorted, through coordination and prior agreement with Washington, in order to invest the regime of the tyrannical charlatan, Khomeyni, with patriotic garb. Indeed, the fabricated hostages issue was part and parcel of such attempts to mislead.

However, such false halos and thin masks could not withstand the blows dealt by the heroic Iraqi Army and its historic victories over the Magian followers of the tyrant Khomeyni. Indeed, such halos disintegrated in the face of reality, whose strong arguments refuted all of the claims and allegations fabricated about the false U.S. neutrality in the Iraqi-Iranian war.

In truth, the U.S. bias toward Iran and the Khomeyni regime has been exposed to the international community and to world public opinion.

Khomeyni and his regime's leaders have chosen to belong to the Hafiz al-Asad school, which distorts truths and deludes the masses and public opinion. They do not realize that it is a failure, which has exposed the true colors of its members rather than disguising their defeatism, collusion and treason. Indeed, masks of camouflage and delusion will not withstand the light of truth.

BAGHDAD DAILIES CRITICIZE U.S. STAND ON CONFLICT

JN181000 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 18 Oct 80

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)--Two Iraqi dailies today strongly attacked the unethical U.S. position on international issues and events.

ATH-THAWRAH and AL-JUMHURIYAH agree that the U.S. stand on the Iraqi-Iranian war adds new proof of the link between the U.S. imperialist interests and the backward regime in Tehran against the interests of the peoples aspiring for progress and liberation.

ATH-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says that the U.S. stand is not surprising because it expresses the essence of imperialism and its greed and methods of strangling mankind's aspirations. Vigilance should be heightened against those who claim they are defending freedom and pretend to weep over human rights.

ATH-THAWRAH says that the bubbles of U.S. neutrality toward the conflict between Iraq and Iran are bursting one after the other. The last bubble burst when the United States hinted to Persian Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, who is currently visiting Washington [as heard], that Washington will supply Tehran with needed arms, hardware and spare parts should the U.S. hostages be released.

The paper adds that U.S. Secretary of State Edmund Muskie hastened to declare this following a statement by President Carter in which he expressed his readiness and welcome to meet with Raja'i. Orders were immediately issued to give facilities to Raja'i's plane and [word indistinct] from boycott measures.

ATH-THAWRAH says that the U.S. opportunism, hypocrisy and partiality in favor of Khomeyni's arrogant and racist regime are all in harmony with the plans of the aggressive intervention of the U.S. air and naval forces in the Arab Gulf area and with the false accusations Carter has leveled against revolutionary and Arab Iraq.

The paper asserts that the U.S. policy toward Iraq and the Arab nation whether in the current conflict with the Magians, or in the Arab Gulf or in the strong alliance with the Zionist entity against the Palestine people, is not governed by any ethical rules and is not based on the values of justice and right. This policy, the paper adds, is founded on the principle that the selfish means justify the vile ends. The United States also resorts to any kind of aggression, sabotage and conspiracy to achieve these evil objectives.

The paper says that Washington is moving to champion its historical ally in Iran--the shah and then Khomeyni--against the just rights of the Arab nation. Washington, the paper adds, is coordinating and plotting with the Zionist enemy against the Palestine people, the Lebanese nationalist movement and southern Lebanon.

ATH-THAWRAH asserts that the U.S. White House's behavior has since the beginning been governed by two elements:

1. Preventing the achievement of an Arab Iraqi victory over the racist Persian fanatic and ignorant regime and circumventing the positive effects of victory on the Arab nation's march, its revolutionary movement and fateful battle to liberate Palestine and all the occupied Arab territories; and

2. Wooing the Khomeyni--Bani-Sadr regime to bring about the release of the U.S. hostages in Tehran at any price. This would serve as a card to increase Carter's electoral fortunes since he is trailing the Republican candidate Ronald Reagan.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the professed U.S. neutrality is falsehood meant to distort the real U.S. stand on the reactionary regime in Tehran.

It adds that during the past period U.S. officials together with the Zionist enemy have repeatedly expressed their concern at Iraq's vistory over the worn-out Khomeyni regime. They expressed their readiness to offer help and to save this collapsing regime. It adds that U.S. Presidenc Carter's statement against Iraq comes within the context of the U.S. enmity toward the Arab nation's issues and problems.

The paper says that Carter's denunciation of what he called Iraqi aggression against Iran and his eagerness to preserve Iranian territorial integrity expose the real U.S. game. They also demonstrate that the reactionary and expansionist nature of the Persian regime in Iran is in harmony with the U.S. imperialist strategy and its hostile stand against the Arab nation's issues and interests.

PRINCE HASAN COMMENTS ON IRAQ-IRAN WAR, JORDAN'S STAND

LD210655 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Oct 80 pp 1, 2

[Anne Whitehouse report on an interview with Jordanian Crown Prince Amir Hasan in Amman--date not given]

[Text] Jordanian Crown Prince Amir Hasan has told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he sees no possibility of the Gulf war developing into a prolonged conflict provided that the two superpowers do not get involved.

During an interview at the Royal Palace here the crown prince said: "We are approaching the end of the conflict. The occurrence of a prolonged war of attrition is an alternative involving the dangers of foreign intervention that nobody wants. Materially and logistically I do not think that a prolonged war is possible unless it becomes a war by proxy, in which case it would lead to a situation of horrifying confrontation between the two superpowers."

"It appears to me that the priority has now shifted from the battlefield to the political and diplomatic channels. We hope that this will lead to the implementation of a cease-fire which will be respected by both sides and then to the tackling of the real problems, namely respect for the national and regional rights of both countries."

Amir Hasan said that within any political solution the Iranians must respect not only the situation that existed before the outbreak of war but also the principal provisions of the 1975 Algiers agreement, particularly the agreement on territories and noninterference in Iraq's affairs.

Expressing his preferrence for mediation by an Islamic committee or body, Amir Hasan said: "Peace must be based on the removal of what I believe has been the essence of confrontation for many years, namely the policeman role which the Iranians have been undertaking."

Amir Hasan said that if political efforts do not lead to any decisive results, there is the possibility of the war continuing in pockets of guerrilla warfare.

The Jordanian crown prince warned of the wider repercussions of the Gulf war, saying: "The only parties that could benefit from the conflict are those which wish to see greater weakness in the Arab and Islamic world. In particular we see the Israelis--Menahem Begin and his government--in a difficult situation. Clearly they would like to find a scenario by which they could criticize the Arab and Islamic countries' ability to implement agreements and treaties following military aggressions.

Amir Hasan said that it is quite possible that Israel will exploit the present conflict in order to launch a direct military action against the Arab world because Israel and a large sector of the world press have adopted a strongly critical attitude toward Jordan's support for Iraq so as to heighten the Israelis' fear of the eastern Arab front.

The Jordanian crown prince expressed his concern that the concept of Arab unity and Arab identity are now exposed to danger but expressed his optimism that the Gulf conflict might be a source for winning greater international recognition of the Arab stand, provided that the Arabs adopt a unified stand. The Arab summit in Amman next month will be an opportunity to adopt a unified Arab action.

Amir Hasan said: "We feel that the current conflict could be a turning point. In any case, we are at rock bottom in our effort to reach a solution for the Middle East problem because of the Camp David initiative. As a result of this conflict a realization that Israel does not have the monopoly over the hopes and aspirations of the people of the area might come about.

We also hope that it will lead to a stronger Arab stand and to the realization of this fact."

Amir Hasan continued: "Since the Iranian revolution in 1978 the Arab countries have suffered from confusion between Islamic dogma and Arab nationalism. The Iranian revolution has generated a certain feeling of revival in many Arab countries. This feeling was connected with Palestinian rights."

The Jordanian crown prince pointed out that Iraq has a long record of supporting the Palestinian cause in 1948, 1967 and 1973 but no vital initiative in support of the Arab cause has come from Iran since the revolution despite all the apparent signs to the contrary. It is hoped that Syria and Libya as well as all the Arab countries will cling to their Arab identity more clearly in the future.

The Jordanian crown prince dismissed the possibility that one of the effects of the war will be that the Arab world will become weaker and, therefore, less capable of resisting a new Camp David initiative which the United States might take. Amir Hasan said: "I cannot see any Arab side coming forward to discuss under the Americans' auspices and within the context of Camp David or a renewed Camp David a matter that the Israelis will clearly exploit in their interest."

Amir Hasan said that the world community as a whole is becoming more aware of the need to give the Palestinians their right to self-determination and of the possibility of finding an alternative for Camp David. He said that any solution to be reached requires the direct or indirect support of the Soviet Union.

But Amir Hasan stressed that Jordan, as the host to the forthcoming Arab summit, strongly feels that the achievement of progress through international channels will largely depend on a joint Arab stand toward the Palestinian problem. He said: "In the light of the coming Islamic conference scheduled to be held in Mecca in December, Jordan certainly looks forward to a new stage of joint Arab and Islamic action instead of divisions."

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES TO CONTINUE AFTER HOLIDAY

JN190926 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Oct 80 p 1

[Text] Amman--An AD-DUSTUR correspondent has learned that Jordan will continue its political moves after the holidays of the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

The correspondent also learned that a high-level Jordanian delegation will visit the neighboring Arab countries within the context of preparations for the 11th Arab summit conference scheduled to be held in Amman during the last 10 days of November.

AL-ASAD CABLES HONECKER ON GDR NATIONAL DAY

AU152150 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 8 Oct 80 p 6

[Telegram from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to SED Central Committee General Secretary Honecker on the GDR national day]

[Text] To His Excellency Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, Berlin:

It is a great pleasure for me, on behalf of the Syrian Arab people and on my own, to convey to you, Excellency, and to the GDR people sincere congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the GDR's national holiday.

At the same time I avail myself of this opportunity to express our deep satisfaction with the already existing relations of friendship and cooperation between our countries, as well as our conviction that they will also further develop in future to the benefit of our two peoples and in the interest of our common struggle. I would also like to voice our high appreciation for the GDR's endorsement of our just struggle.

Excellency, please accept our best wishes for personal happiness and well-being, as well as for further successes and for your people's constant advancement and happiness.

[Signed] Hafiz al-Asad

SECURITY PATROLS CLASH WITH MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

Outskirts of Damascus

JN192142 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 19 Oct 80

[Text] Damascus--Security organs killed two members of the Muslim Brotherhood gang in the southern outskirts of Damascus today. A security patrol clashed with a passing car in the southern outskirts of Damascus. When the police tried to stop the car in order to identify the people using it, two armed men in the car fired at the patrol members who returned fire, killing the two armed men, later identified as members of the Muslim Brotherhood gang. Two pistols and a number of handgrenades were captured.

Aleppo Raid

JN192011 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Oct 80

[Text] Aleppo--As a result of the cooperation of honest citizens with the security police in Aleppo, policemen stormed a Muslim Brotherhood hideout in the Shaykh Abu Bakr quarter today. They killed one of the criminals in the hideout.

The police captured five military rifles, five pistols, a quantity of ammunition, handgrenades and some documents incriminating the criminal Muslim Brotherhood gang.

The residents of the Shaykh Abu Bakr quarter expressed their satisfaction with and praised the role of the security policy in liquidating the gang and securing the citizen's safety and security.

RESULTS OF BA'TH OFFICIAL'S DPRK MEETINGS REPORTED

JN201420 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Text] Pyongyang--DPRK President Kim Il-song has reiterated his country's firm support for the Syrian people's struggle against imperialism and Zionism. He affirmed the Korean people's support for the Arab nation in its struggle to liberate its territories and to enable the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate national rights.

This came during a recent meeting between the DPRK leader and Comrade Tawfiq Salinhah, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and chief of the regional organizational office, and his accompanying delegation.

The DPRK president expressed his wish that the Syrian people achieve further successes under the leadership of his comrade-in-arms and friend, struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the republic.

Comrade Salihah conveyed the regards of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the comrade secretary general of the party to the DPRK president. He affirmed Syria's inalienable stand on the Korean issue, as regards unity and the expulsion of the imperialist invaders from its territories.

He also thanked Comrade Kim Il-song for his country's stand on our national and pan-Arab issues and for devoting a special paragraph in the report submitted to the sixth conference of the Korean Workers Party to an expression of support for the Palestinian people's struggle.

U.S. ACCUSED OF TRYING TO EXPLOIT IRAQI-IRANIAN WAR

JN200950 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Press review]

[Excerpts] In an article under the headline "Oil Is an Inflammable Material," TISHRIN says: U.S. diplomacy is now very actively seeking to exploit the situation resulting from Saddam Husayn's war against the Iranian revolution, even though this is the time for the U.S. presidential elections during which, as it is said, a U.S. administration does not make important decisions. It seems that the implementation of U.S. plans to dominate the Middle East and its rich oil resources is a component of U.S. policy similar to the U.S. commitment to what is called Israeli security, under which the U.S. Government supplies Israel with weapons and money to guarantee its military supremacy over all Arab states and encourage its aggressive and expansionist practices.

Despite the first U.S. attempt to spread its domination by means of the Camp David accords, the United States has sustained a great setback due to the daring stand taken by Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. This stand has become a base for Arab rejection of all agreements. Thus, the United States has shifted to a new process to drag the Arab world into a U.S. alliance under the pretext of pure Islam and claims of protecting Islam in Afghanistan.

When the false turban fell onto Carter's head, the United States moved into a new process with no less danger and risk than the previous processes. That is, placing the U.S. military weight in the balance to divide the Arab ranks and strike at the alliance between the Arab revolutionary movements and other national liberation movements in the area. Now we have Saddam Husayn's war against Iran as evidence of this U.S. plan.

Despite efforts to justify and defend this war, it has caused division among the Arab ranks, paralysis of the Arab League and doubts about the possibility of holding the Amman summit. It has also cracked the Islamic solidarity and inflicted great harm on the non-aligned movement as well as damage to Iraq's economy and losses in life and property. This war also has removed Iraq for a long time from the balance between the Arabs and the Zionist enemy.

This war, according to officials of Saddam's regime, is waged over a border dispute and has nothing to do with liberating Arabistan or keeping Iranian territory. This war has become a means to entrench the U.S. military presence and to oblige some Arab countries to join openly the bandwagon of U.S. political alliances and also to bring Iran back under subservience to the United States by means of conspiracies and pressure.

Concluding its article TISHRIN says: These U.S. plans have not achieved their aims even though the United States has resorted to methods of the fifties and earlier. If the U.S. leaders are trying to disregard the lesson of Vietnam, wherein the peoples defeated the U.S. war machine, they should realize the factors that led to U.S. defeat still exist in the world and are becoming even stronger. If the United States is so bold as to start fires near the oil wells, it should know that oil is inflammable.

LIBYA

IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER RAJA'I ARRIVES, MEETS JALLUD

LD201254 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Text] Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud today met with Brother Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who arrived in Tripoli at noon today from Algeria en route to Iran.

AL-QADHDHAFI REPORTEDLY TO VISIT USSR, SOLIDIFY TIES

NC181250 Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 18 Oct 80

[Text] Paris, 18 Oct (AFP)--Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will pay a visit to Moscow soon which will mark a "qualitative change" in Libyan-Soviet relations, the Arab-language weekly AL-MUSTAQBAL reported here today.

Quoting well-informed sources in the Syrian capital, Damascus, it said the visit could bring the signature of a friendship treaty similar to that signed recently between Syria and the Soviet Union, during President Hafiz al-Asad's Moscow visit.

AL-MUSTAQBAL said Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's proposed visit to Damascus for further discussions on the planned unification of Syria and Libya had meanwhile been put off by mutual agreement, until after he returns from Moscow. Libyan sources in Paris refused to confirm or deny the weekly's report.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR ISSUES STATEMENT ON SPANISH DETAINEES

LD210235 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Text] According to a statement issued tonight by the Saharan Ministry of Information, SDAR authorities will welcome and are prepared to receive the families of the Spanish fishermen belonging to the fishing trawler Garmomar which was detained by the Saharan national navy on the 22nd of last May along the Saharan shores. The statement said that the date for this visit will be fixed later.

The statement said that this good gesture embodies the pressing desire of the Saharan people to consolidate their relations with the Spanish people and meets the ambitions of those who are endeavoring to settle the Saharan-Spanish dispute. The statement of the Saharan Information Ministry added that the Polisario Front had spared no effort to see Spain return to international legality and to end its policy of hostility to our people that is not in the interests of the Spanish people or the government. He also stated that Spain must turn a new page of the unlawful Madrid agreement and adopt a new policy that meets the aspiration sof the two friendly peoples.

Moreover, Spain must correct its mistake and abolish the unlawful fishing agreements concluded with the forces responsible for the aggression on our people. By so doing Spain would have responded not just to the desire of the international community, but also to the peoples of the region who wish to consolidate cooperation based on peace and mutual respect. The statement called on Spain to work in the future to avoid any further dispute by prohibiting its fishermen from taking chances in waters which have been declared for some time as war zones. In conclusion, the statement pointed out that the Polisario Front had done its utmost so that Spain could reconsider its position recalling in this connection the release of Spanish fishermen on 28 September 1977 and on 14 October 1972 while they were carrying out illegal activities in SDAR waters.

MODA'I SAYS U.S. ELECTION EXPLOITED IN OIL TALKS

TA211003 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Oct 80 p 1

[By London correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] "Israel exploited the election eve period as a means of pressure on the United States in the negotiations on the agreement for the supply of oil from that country," Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i revealed in a talk with this reporter.

Minister Moda'i arrived in the British capital yesterday following talks in Washington, where the agreement was signed. He said Israel had employed the tactic of exploiting the election-eve period in the earlier talks with U.S. representatives in the negotiations which had gone on for over a year. "Our aim was to defer any progress in the negotiations until election eve, and that is what we did."

The energy minister stressed that the oil agreement is for 14 years and is based on three principles: 1) The U.S. guarantee to supply oil to Israel in an emergency will remove the pressure Israel has thus far been under, and which more than once caused it to purchase oil on the spot market at high prices, for fear that the prices would go even higher. The agreement will enhance our position financially. 2) The moment the world market price exceeds that of the relative price in the United States, the agreement will be implemented automatically. Should Israel lose a primary source, such as Egypt or Mexico, the United States undertakes to supply it immediately for a 4-month period, irrespective of the agreement itself. 3) "The United States has never given this kind of undertaking," Moda'i stressed.

In reply to a question from this reporter, the minister said that in his talks he had not raised the possibility that the United States would sell Israel oil produced in Alaska. "There was no point in discussing this subject."

On 22 October the energy minister will meet with the British secretary of state for industry, Sir Keith Joseph, who is considered the architect of the British Cabinet's conservative economic policy. "In these talks," Moda'i noted, "I shall not discuss with him the possibility of Britain's supplying oil to Israel."

"Israel has an agreement with Egypt for the supply of oil in 1981," the energy minister said, noting that this is not a written agreement but an understanding. Minister Moda'i said Israel would purchase about 2 tons of oil per annum [as published] from Egypt, which is the amount Israel is purchasing this year from Egypt. This is about one-quarter of Israel's consumption. As to the price, the minister said, Israel will purchase the oil at the official Egyptian price. That price is set every 3 months, with the next date for fixing the price being January 1981.

Today the official price at which Israel purchases Egyptian oil is $34 per barrel for Suez mixture quality and $28 per barrel at Abu-Rudays mixture quality.

PRICE OF BREAD, OTHER PRODUCTS INCREASED

TA201340 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Excerpt] In Israel, more price rises. Bread goes up tonight by 40 percent, public transport by 25 percent--that from 4 November; frozen poultry goes up tonight by 18 percent; margarine by 8 percent and cooking oil by 10 percent. All this with inflation, before the increases, running at 130 percent. What it is all about from reporter Harley Braidman:

The decision was a compromise because the treasury had wanted to increase the prices even more. As it is, the cost of living index will go up by just over 1 percent as a result of these hikes. Why did the government adopt this policy? Industry Minister Gid'on Pat:

[Begin recording] We are very much dependent on the price of raw materials abroad and if the price of wheat goes up, or the price of soya beans goes up, we have no other choice but to increase prices here, and the same with all other raw materials which have, naturally, repercussions on the price of the end product. [end recording]

When the government generates price rises in basic products, it leads to price hikes all round, so what did Pat do?

[Begin recording] I insisted that the price increase of the basic products which the government supplies should be as low as possible in order not to generate too much increase in the prices of other products, but prices all over the world go up, not only in Israel. We live in a very difficult and maybe even crazy economy, world economy, and we cannot just close our eyes and make believe that we are an isolated island and we can do whatever we want to do. Basically, we think that the people should pay the real cost of the various products that they are using. We are very lucky in this country, from an individual point of view, not from the country's economic point of view, that we have the indexation system, where people do receive full compensation for every increase in the inflation. [end recording]

Housing Minister David Levi walked out in a huff from the meeting, after voting for the price rises, because he thought the weaker classes were bearing the brunt and the burden ought to be shared equally, with the benefits given to the stronger groups also being affected and budgets cut. What about easing the tax concessions for industrialists, he argued? Pat and Hurvitz disagreed.

[Begin Pat recording] I think that the basic need for any growing economy is stability in its industries and if we do not take into consideration profits which are the end product of inflation and we tax these profits, then, before we know it, the substance of any industry in Israel will be eaten up and industries will close doors and then there will be a high rate of unemployment in Israel. [end recording]

MILITARY COMMANDER REJECTS APPEAL OF DEPORTED MAYORS

TA201322 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Excerpt] The military commander of Judaea and Samaria, Brig Gen Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, rejected the appeal against the expulsion order of the Hebron and Halhul mayors. Correspondent Arye Gus reports from the Judaea and Samaria headquarters:

[Begin recording] The commander of Judaea and Samaria region, Brig Gen Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, announced his decision to the appellants' attorney, Ms Felicia Langer. A short time ago Ms Langer met with the commander of the region in the military government headquarters in Bet'el. The meeting was short and on emerging from it Ms Langer said:

[Langer] I received a decision that after the commander of the region studied the recommendations of the appeals committee he decided to leave the expulsion orders unchanged, that is, they would remain in force.

[Gus] Did he give reasons for his decision?

[Langer] No, there were no reasons given.

[Gus] We have learned that the military appeals committee also decided to deport the mayors and that no conditions were created to alter the deportation order. Ms Langer does not accept this decision and intends to appeal to the high court of justice within 48 hours. [end recording]

SOMALIA

BARRE SPEAKS ON ANNIVERSARY; DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY

LD211228 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1400 GMT 21 Oct 80 EA

[Text] Addressing the people of Somalia over the radio, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, secretary general of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party and president of the Somali Democratic Republic, sent greetings and congratulated the nation on the occasion of the 11th anniversary since the inception of the 21 October revolution.

Challe Siad said that the past 11 years, viewed from all aspects, have been years which have given the Somali people a sense of awareness and maturity, and they have continued the struggle to develop themselves. The president said the 21 October revolution believes that the Somali nation, which has passed through various stages and survived through various stages and survived through hard struggle, deserves a good life and respect for its culture and sovereignty. From the time of its inception, he added, the slogan of the revolution has been "Self help and self-sufficiency." Although many of the revolution's objectives have been implemented, there are certain targets which have not yet been achieved.

Speaking on internal affairs, Challe Siad said that in its 11 years of existence, the revolution has made tangible progress in strengthening internal security, credit for which is due not only to the special forces but also to the Somali masses in general and the party, although, he said, the question of some people or governmants conspiring against the unity of the Somali nation to cause havoc and mistrust cannot be overlooked. Those people and governments have used as their tools some so-called Somalis whose policy is merely tribalism and self-interest. This is detrimental to the Somali nation, and for this reason the revolution has for the past 11 years been making use of all the tools at its disposal--policy or the law--to safeguard society and the government machinery from such evils.

President Siad said that in addition to those groups, who think they can use tribalism to further their own interests and to cripple the revolution, new selfish and opportunist groups have emerged, plundering and causing problems for the people. He said that these groups have brought more harm than gain to the people. He added that they are introducing bribery, corruption, malpractices and other such evils to society, ignoring the objectives of the revolution.

These people, the president said, have been punished, but in vain, and we cannot blame the Somali people, for these people have been given [word indistinct] to take advantage of the party's policy and the peoples leniency. For this reason, the president of Somalia, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, calls on the party and the government to implement the following points:

In considering the constitution and the law of the country, the departments directly concerned with this issue are to take immediate steps to safeguard the people and the administration against this scandalous state of affairs.

Having concern for the socialist outlook and party programs, the party organs should wipe these elements from the ken of the (?broad masses) and publicize their evil deeds. The various social organizations should seek out and eradicate members of these elements who are in disguise. Government agencies are to ensure that people found guilty of such practices will be prohibited from taking part in any economic administration formerly entrusted to them, and their names should be passed to other agencies.

Speaking on economic issues, the president said that the Somali people are fully aware of how the government is tirelessly trying to balance the economy; however, the national economy has been greatly affected by international crises, whether the fuel crisis or the general situation. The president added that such crises have in turn hurt the country's production rate, which has been below scheduled targets.

This lowering of standards is also mainly due to the constant fighting by the Abyssinians in this region; the large number of refugees in the country; the influx of people into towns, thus leaving farm and animals uncared for; and the fact that government inspection agencies have been unable to reach everywhere.

Challe Siad said that some administrative agencies which the government has entrusted with administration and supervision of production and other profitable economic wealth unfortunately hae not shown any progress in their work. This has made imperative that they be reshaped and reorganized in order to increase production and economic wealth.

We have been unavoidably forced to investigate those agencies which have not played the role for which they had been created; to remove those whose work has been unchallenging; to strengthen those which are essential and which have excelled in their work and implemented their goals; and to give more emphasis and assistance to the means of production, especially farmers, factory workers and fishing projects. High school and technical students have been absorbed mainly into the production field. Expenditures concerned with relying on others and on entertainment have been minimized to strengthen our economy. The financial agencies were instructed to analyze the value of the Somali shilling and its relation to foreign currencies.

Turning to external affairs, the president said that of late the Abyssians have been constantly waging war against the Somali Democratic Republic, on the pretext that Somalia is aiding the liberation movements fighting for their self-determination, such as the Western Somali Liberation Front, the Abo and the Eritreans.

The president said it is true that the Somali Democratic Republic has given a hand to the legitimate struggles of these peoples for their self-determination, just as it has always done, and it will also give assistance to any other liberation movement fighting for a just cause. What thus needs to be asked is: What is this false pretence? We believe there are far-fetched issues and other forms of strategy which do not benefit only the Abyssians themselves. This can be clearly seen by the Somali Democratic Republic's efforts to find a just solution to these problems. Somalia has informed the Abyssinians and their allies on several occasions that a continued war will solve anything, and that the Somali Democratic Republic is ready to take part in any lasting solution to the problems of the liberation movements.

President Challe Mohammed Siad Barre, speaking on the recently signed agreement between the governments of the Somali Democratic Republic and the United States, clearly stated that the points of this agreement are straightforward and unobscure. The agreement is based on the interests of the two nations and is not one aimed against others. We see it as one which will play a tangible role in the stability of this region. We believe that Abyssinian aggression against Somalia has been based on bigger and broader strategies--to link the East African countries, the Gulf and the Indian Ocean. Challe Siad pointed out that Somalia has not provided a base for the Americans. The question to ask is: What are the motives behind the lies being circulated by the Abyssinians and those supporting them in their injustices, since it is well known that there are foreign troops permanently stationed in that country, threatening the stability and peace of the entire region.

Speaking on the Middle East situation, the president said that the policy of the Somali Democratic Republic has always been that the Israelis must withdraw from all territories they conquered from the Arabs in the 1967 and other wars, and that the Palestinian people should be given their legitimate right to self-determination. President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre said that the imperialists are always conspiring against the unity and strength of the Arab peoples, thus enabling their enemies to profit from the situation. Challe Siad called on the Arabs to be united in order to free their lands.

On the Iraq-Iran conflict, the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party secretary general said the Somali Democratic Republic believes that the Iraqi people should have their [words indistinct] returned, with an immediate halt to spilling Muslim's blood and the destruction of their economies. The president added that if not stopped, this conflict could spread to other neighboring countries and oilfields and force the superpowers into the conflict. Challe Siad called on the Arab governments to take steps to see that the conflict between the two countries is stopped and a cease-fire is enforced.

The president concluded his speecy by referring to the continuing Abyssinian aggression against the Somali Democratic Republic, and the problems of a few selfish people who use tribalism and corruption as their tools and who endanger the stability and progress of the revolution. He also looked into the urgent corrective steps necessary to ensure the effective control of the revolution.

Taking into account Article 83 of the SDR Constitution, the president declared a state of emergency to be in force in the country for a period.

OFFICIAL RETURNS FROM DPRK PARTY CONGRESS, PRC

LD210222 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 20 Oct 80 EA

[Text] The Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] second vice president, Challe Hussein Kulmiye Afrah, and the delegation he was leading, has returned home after attending the sixth congress of the Korean Workers Party [KWP] in the DPRK capital of Pyongyang. Challe Kulmiye delivered a message from the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party [SRSP] secretary general and SDR president, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, to the secretary general of the KWP, Challe Kim Il-song. The vice president and Challe Kim Il-song discussed strengthening friendly ties between the two countries [words indistinct] the Horn of Africa and other matters personally touching on international affairs.

Challe Hussein Kulmiye Afrah also paid a brief visit to the PRC, where he held talks on strengthening bilateral cooperation and mutual assistance with PRC leaders.

SOMALI SALVATION FRONT'S BATTLE FLAG DESCRIBED

LD202330 (Clandestine) Radio Kulmis in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 22 Oct 80

[Text] (Yeed)--Our Radio Kulmis reporter accompanying the Somali Salvation Front [SSF] forces in Bakol region reports that the SSF forces have destroyed several camps belonging to the forces of Afweyneh [Siad Barre's nickname: big mouth]. As we have already reported, the SSF forces lost two martyrs.

The reporter says that in one of the liberated areas--the district of (Yeed)--the SSF have appointed a district commissioner [DC] to administer the district. Our reporter says that in (Yeed) town, the SDR [Somali Democratic Republic] flag, which is our national flag, is flying side by side with the SSF's battle flag. The flag has a red line at the top, symbolizing the blood being spilled to liberate our country; a three-pointed white star toward the flagstaff edge, representing peace, prosperity and stability; and a green line at the bottom edge of the flag representing the progress toward which the SSF will lead the Somali people.

The DC appointed by the SSF for (Yeed) District is Abdi Shakur Ismail (Fahiye), who was DC of the Dusa Mareb District before Afweyneh's regime usurped our country. In a message the DC has appealed for calm in the district and its surroundings, calling on the people to exert vigilance and to defend their district from any attempts by Afweyneh forces to recapture it. He told the people to go about their work normally.

CAMEROON

UNHCR REPORTS NEW WAVE OF CHADIAN REFUGEES

AB171554 Paris AFP in French 1429 GMT 17 Oct 80

[Text] United Nations (Geneva), 17 Oct. (AFP)--A new wave of several thousand refugees has arrived in Cameroon from Chad, a communique from the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) published today, Friday, in Geneva indicates. About 100,000 refugees are already in Cameroon following renewal of the conflict among the various Chadian factions.

According to the statement, the High Commission for Refugees has been able to assist the new refugees out of existing reserves while waiting for a fresh evaluation of their needs to be made.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

DACKO INTERVIEWED ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC SITUATION

AB181112 Paris AFP in French 1621 GMT 17 Oct 80

[Text] Bangui, 17 Oct (AFP)--In an interview with AFP on Friday, the Central African president, Mr David Dacko, asserted that the former prime minister, Mr Bernard Christian Ayando, and the former vice president, Mr Henri Maidou, who had been dismissed at the end of August, now enjoy total freedom of movement.

On the other hand, the head of state explained that a new Central African prime minister with economic and administrative responsibilites will soon be appointed. Mr Dacko also announced that the Central African constitutional project, which is currently being discussed by the Council of Ministers, will be submitted to a referendum in the first months of 1981. This will be followed by the adoption of an electoral law and free general elections, he added.

In the president's view, the political situation is getting back to normal: fear has disappeared and peace previals in the country. Our only difficulties to overcome now are financial, but, he added, the economic revival program we are undertaking should enable us to overcome those difficulties.

The Central African president emphasized the assistance that France has been giving to his country. Just today, he said, we signed an agreement providing that France will put at our disposal 5 billion CFA to help discharge our internal debt. These loans will also help us to compensate those looted on 20 September 1979 (overthrow of Bokassa).

President Dacko later expressed his desire to encourage the reestablishment of small-scale companies and the development of agro-industrial enterprises. He would also like to revive small-scale trading, especially in the rural areas, which are underprivileged as compared with the capital.

The small, family-level agricultural production is also favored by the head of state. He recalls that by the end of his first term of office (1960-65), his country was exporting beeswax but that this stopped under Bokassa regime. President Dacko also hopes to revive cocoa farming, which he introduced in the early 1960's. He wants to train competent farmers who could settle in production zones in the provinces.

Finally, Mr David Dacko referred to the youth village cooperatives: the purpose of this policy is to evolve a balanced regional development, he concluded.

CHAD

AFP REPORTS PEACE TALKS END WITHOUT AGREEMENT

AB201217 Paris AFP in French 0908 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Excerpt] Lome, 19 Oct (AFP)--No agreement was signed between the Chadian protagonists who met Saturday and Sunday in Lome (Togo) for the peace conference held under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) ad hoc subcommittee.

During a short public meeting on Sunday afternoon, Mr Edem Kodjo, secretary general of the OAU, explained that the deliberations of the subcommittee would continue at the level of foreign affairs ministers of member countries of the committee under the chairmanship of the Togolese head of state, General Gnassingbe Eyadema. The OAU Secretariat will also attend.

MR Oueddei Goukouni, president of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] was the only one of the warring factions to attend this closing session, which was attended by the heads of state of Togo and Benin, respectively General Eyadema and Mathieu Kerekou. It was also attend by Congo's representative, Mr Katali, who is also his country's interior minister.

However, Mr Goukouni, who left Togo afterward, left behind in the Togolese capital some members of the GUNT delegation, including Mr Niambaye Lossimian, Chad's agriculture minister, to remain in contact with the subcommittee, Transitional Government sources disclosed.

Stevens' Optimism

AB190639 Paris AFP in English 0348 GMT 19 Oct 80

[Text] Lome, Togo, 19 Oct (AFP)--Organization of African Unity Chairman Siaka Stevens said Saturday that he was very optimistic over the results of talks here aimed at ending the 7-month war in Chad.

Mr. Stevens, who is president of Sierra Leone, was speaking before leaving Lome where an ad hoc OAU committee that he chaired Saturday proposed dates for a cease-fire and despatch of an inter-African peace-keeping force to Ndjamena.

The talks were attended by the leaders of the two armies fighting for control of the Chadian capital, President of the Transitional Government of National Unity Oueddei Goukouni and his former defence minister, Hissein Habre.

CONGO

BURUNDI PRESIDENT BAGAZA ARRIVES IN BRAZZAVILLE

AB172144 Paris AFP in French 1816 GMT 17 Oct 80

[Text] Brazzaville, 17 Oct (AFP)--The president of Burundi, Lt Col Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, arrived in Brazzaville this afternoon at the head of an important delegation. The Burundian head of state was welcomed at the international airport of Brazzaville by the Congolese head of state, Col Denis Sassou-N'guesso, and by members of the Political Bureau, the government and the Congolese party.

The two heads of state then proceeded to the [word indistinct] of the 17, where the Burundian head of state and his entourage will stay for 4 days.

President Bagaza will attend a banquet offered in his honor by the Congolese president this evening. During his visit, the Burundian head of state will tour the interior of the republic, especially Point Noire, the economic capital of Congo, and Loubomo.

GABON

MAURITANIAN LEADER PAYS 2-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT

LD172300 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Oct 80

[Summary] Chief of State and Government Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala today arrived in Libreville for an official visit. He was welcomed on arrival by President Omar Bongo. The chief of state said after his arrival that he is confident that the visit will consolidate the fraternal ties and cooperation between the two countries.

Communique on Talks

LD200118 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Oct 80

[Summary] The head of state, Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, this morning returned to Nouakchott after a 48-hour visit to Gabon at the invitation of President Omar Bongo. A communique says that the two heads of state discussed bilateral relations and the means of strengthening them. During their talks they exchanged views on bilateral, African and international relations. Experts from both countries met in Libreville from 17 to 19 October to draw up the legal framework for cooperation between the two countries. A joint committee has been formed.

The Mautritanian head of state extended an invitation ot the Gabonese president to visit Mauritania. The invitation was accepted. The date will be set later through diplomatic channels.

ZAIRE

DEFICIT BUDGET SENT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

AB210831 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1255 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Excerpt] Kinshaha, 20 Oct (AZAP)--The provisions of the 1981 state budget were fixed at 4,933,983,461 zaires for revenues and 5,573,983,461 for expenditures, recording a deficit of 640 million zaires. Out of the total amount for state expenditures, 35 percent represents payment of remunerations for officers, 20 percent for paying debts and 45 percent for running the state's public services.

All these provisions were contained in the budget proposal presented in Monday to the Legislative Council by the first state commissioner, Citizen Nguza Karl-I-Bond.

MOBUTU COMMUTES SENTENCES TO MARK 50TH BIRTHDAY

AB171837 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1550 GMT 17 Oct 80

[Excerpt] Kinshasa, 17 Oct (AZAP)--Any person sentenced to death, and any person sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labor before 14 October 1980 will have his sentence commuted to life imprisonment for the first group and 20 years' imprisonment with hard labor for the second group.

Any person sentenced to a prison term of 2 years or less before 14 October 1980 will have his sentence completely remitted; those with prison terms of more than 2 years before 14 October 1980 will have their sentences reduced to 1 year of imprisonment.

This is contained in Ordinance No's 80-241 and 242 of 17 October 1980 relative to clemency signed today by President Mobutu to mark his 50th birthday. Ordinance No 20-241, however, specifies that these commutations of sentences do not apply to convicted fugitives or to those convicted for murder, treason, armed robbery, criminal association, embezzlement of public property, or violation of foreign exchange regulations.

IVORY COAST

COCOA TO BE STOCKPILED TO MAINTAIN PRICE LEVELS

AB181445 Paris AFP in English 0652 GMT 18 Oct 80

[Text] Abidjan, 18 Oct (AFP)--Ivory Coast will stockpile 100,000 tons of cocoa from the 1980-81 crop because of the unsatisfactory world market situation, Agriculture Minister Denis Bra Kanon has stated. The beans could be stored for at least a year in ideal conditions in Abidjan, San Pedro and Yamoussoukro, he said here yesterday. Such stockpiling would be done whenever the price fell below a certain level. He did not say what that price would be. Stocking part of the 1979-81 crop had cost about 7 billion CFA francs (34 million dollars), he added.

Mr Bra Kanon said he would attend a meeting in Lagos next week of the Cocoa Producers Alliance to prepare for the forthcoming parley in Geneva between producers and consumers to renegotiate the international cocoa agreement. He said the Geneva talks, from Oct. 27 to Nov. 7, should be based on a minimum price of 120 U.S. cents a pound, and not the 90 cents a pound the consumers favour.

The minister said Ivory Coast had harvested a record 370,000 tons in 1979-80, against 312,000 the previous year. Of this, 76 percent was exported and 14 percent sold locally. For the 1980-81 crop, he said farmers would get the same price as last year--300 CFA francs (one dollar 50 cents a pound).

AGRICULTURE MINISTER CRITICIZES COFFEE QUOTAS

AB181451 Paris AFP in English 0702 GMT 18 Oct 80

[Text] Abidjan, 18 Oct (AFP)--Ivorian Agriculture Minister Denis Bra Kanon has attacked the recent decision of the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) to introduce quotas for producers, saying it would force his country to build up stocks at great cost. The ICO had set the total quota for the African countries and Madagascar at only 366,000 tons, while the potential production of Ivory Coast alone was 300,000 tons, he told a press conference here yesterday. The 180,000-ton quota set for Ivory Coast was therefore manifestly inadequate.

Mr Bra Kanon called on African producers to consult with each other and show solidarity in the face of the quota, set on October 3 in London.

He added that Ivory Coast's 1979-80 crop had come to 250,000 tonnes, some 25,000 tons less than the previous year.

NIGERIA

PAPER ADVOCATES EXTENDING CIVIL WAR RECONCILIATION STEP

AB211035 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Oct 80

[Press Review]

[Excerpt] The NIGERIAN STANDARD takes a second look at President Shehu Shagari's National Day broadcast in which he announced that public officers in the former eastern state who were affected by the civil war would have a 30-month period of distress added to their years of service. The paper highly commends the humane gesture which, according to it, will contribute immensely to efforts aimed at reconciliation. It however wants the Federal Government to extend this magnanimous act to all other officers in the police and prisons [services] and ex-servicemen also cut off during the war. The STANDARD asks that the issue of abandoned properties should be looked into and disposed of once and for all.

SENEGAL

LE SOLEIL ACCUSES AL-QADHDHAFI OF RACIST POLICY

AB171824 Paris AFP in French 1159 GMT 17 Oct 80

[Text] Dakar, 17 Oct (AFP)--Writing under the headline "Avowal," the Dakar paper LE SOLEIL believes that in accusing Niger and Mali of persecuting Touaregs, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has made clear his racist attitude in his relations with neighboring African countries, whose inhabitants are mostly blacks.

The director general of the paper, which is close to the Seneglaese Government, Mr Bara Diouf, writes that it is difficult to understand this direct and outspoken attack on the very African countries that rejected the defense and mutual military aid pact offered them within the framework of the CEAO (West African Economic Community comprising the Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal) in order to maintain cordial relations with Al-Qadhdhafi.

Even though Moussa Traore's unequivocal stand in favor of Tunisia during the events in Gafsa could account for Al-Qadhdhafi's open hostility, he adds, it seems to us that the accusations against Niger are obviously unjustified. Has Colonel Kountche not sold uranium to Al-Qadhdhafi in his desire to maintain peaceful coexistence with his turbulent neighbor in the north?

The truth is that by using the tactless language common among schizophrenics and those unmindful of self-control, Al-Qadhdhafi has revealed and confessed a plan which everyone expected, the director general of LE SOLEIL continues.

After the explosive situation in Mauritania, where he has already settled in thanks to the Polisario, he declares his position concerning Mali and Niger, which both shelter Arab minorities that can be manipulated, the commentator says. Bara Diouf believes that this attack is a declaration of war based on racism, and an acknowledgement of a form of racism which he does not dare to name and which expresses itself now after the failures in Chad and in Western Sahara.

In conclusion, the director of LE SOLEIL points out that Libya's commitment in the Western Sahara conflict is part of a vast plan for the creation of a Muslim empire (from Senegal to Chad and comprising Mali, Mauritania, Western Sahara and Niger) at the service of Tripoli.

Senegal broke diplomatic ties with Libya on 29 June after accusing it of interfering in its internal affairs.

BRIEFS

CAPE VERDE-CUBA AGREEMENT--In the capital of Cape Verde, a ceremony was held to sign the protocol of the second intergovernmental meeting of scientific and technical cooperation between that African republic and Cuba. The agreement broadens some branches in which Cuba and Cape Verde have maintained cooperation in recent years. The branches receiving more attention are public health, education and transportation. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1116 GMT 17 Oct 80 FL]

LIBERIA PRICE FREEZE--A price freeze has been imposed on all soft drinks and bread in Liberia. The freeze, which takes immediate effect, was imposed by the Commerce Ministry upon the directive of the PRC cochairman and vice head of state, Maj Gen Thomas Weh Syen, when he visited the Ministry of Commerce yesterday to acquaint himself with problems related to the high prices of commodities on the local market. A release from the Commerce Ministry said that Cochairman Weh Syen noted that the freeze will remain in force until a decision is reached by a proposed committee set up to review requests for price adjustments. [Excerpts] [Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 17 Oct 80 AB]

MADAGASCAR

PRESIDENT SAYS ONLY U.S. WILL GAIN IN IRAN-IRAQ WAR

AB171630 Paris AFP in English 1606 GMT 17 Oct 80

[Text] Antananarivo, 17 Oct (AFP)--President Didier Ratsiraka of Madagascar, receiving an Iraqi envoy on a tour through Africa, said here today that U.S. imperialism would be the big winner in Iraq's war against Iran. In a declaration reported on state radio, Mr Ratsiraka warned Iraqi Minister of State Hashim Aqrawi against any generous offer of Western aid to Iraq after the war, when Iraq would find itself obliged to undertake costly reconstruction.

Mr Aqrawi and his delegation have already visited Senegal, Guinea, Mali, Zambia and Mozambique, and were to go on to Tanzania, Kenya and Nigeria. They are seeking support for Iraq's position from non-aligned states, for whose leadership Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is believed to be prepared a determined bid.

Mr Ratsiraka said the United States was playing both sides: betting on the destruction of Iraq's economy that would render it incapable of fighting Israel, and counting on reclaiming revolutionary Iran as had been done with Egypt. Such a result, the Madagascan leader said, would leave the Americans an open field in the strategic Middle East. He said Madagascar, as a friendly, non-aligned and anti-imperialist state, was concerned by the Gulf war and by the loss of Iraqi oil it entailed. Iraq supplied 60 percent of the Indian Ocean republic's needs--estimated at 600,000 tons a year--before the fighting broke out last month.

SOUTH AFRICA

TALKS WITH UN DELEGATION ON NAMIBIA OPEN IN PRETORIA

LD201940 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Text] Formal talks between senior officials of the South African Department of Foreign Affairs and a special United Nations mission on South-West Africa began in Pretoria a short while ago. The South African delegation met at the Union Buildings in Pretoria this morning. The team consists of the director general of foreign affairs, Dr Brand Fourie; the South African ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Eksteen; and the ambassador-designate to West Germany Mr (Neil Van Heerden).

The United Nations delegation is led by the under secretary for political affairs, Mr Brian Urquhart. He is accompanied by a senior official of the Secretariat, Mr Abdulrahim Farah, of Somalia; Dr Waldheim's special representative for South-West Africa, Mr Martti Ahtisaari; and the commander-designate of the United Nations task force for South-West Africa, Gen Prem Chand.

A South African foreign affairs spokesman said this afternoon's discussion would probably center mainly around the drawing up of an agenda for the week's negotiations, which are expected to end on Friday.

In the meantime, representatives of the five Western nations involved in the settlement issue--the United States, Britain, France, Canada and West Germany--paid a courtesy call on the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, today. Mr Botha is expected to take part in the discussions at a later stage. The United Nations delegation is expected to meet representatives of the South-West Africa Ministers Council and other political leaders later this week.

ZAMBIAN REPORTS ON RSA TROOPS DISMISSED AS 'PROPAGANDA'

LD202036 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 20 Oct 80

[Text] The South African Defense Force has reacted to reports that Zambian forces have driven South African troops out of western Zambia. Defense force headquarters in Pretoria said it was apparent that President Kaunda of Zambia was disseminating these propaganda reports to draw the world's attention away from his country's domestic problems. The statement reiterated the South African Government's official policy regarding the presence of South African troops in northern South-West Africa, the troops being there to protect the local populace from SWAPO terrorists and not to confront neighboring states.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE DESCRIBES MEETING WITH MACHEL IN QUELIMANE

LD201300 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 19 Oct 80 CA

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, says Zimbabwe and Mozambique have already agreed to cooperate in their efforts to attain the highest standards of security between the two countries. He told newsmen in Quelimane after holding talks with President Machel of Mozambique that they had spoken at length about the internal security of the two countries. Comrade Mugabe said they had agreed to wipe out dissident elements in our midst. He said that he and President Machel had discussed ways in which to speed up the implementation of the bilateral trade agreement signed between the two countries when the Mozambican leader visited Zimbabwe in August. The prime minister said the meeting also covered the visits of President Machel to Romania, Bulgaria and the German Democratic Republic and his own visit to Korea and China. Comrade Mugabe said the two sides had also discussed the Namibian issue, in which they reaffirmed their support for the United Nations to secure independence for that territory.

On arrival in Quelimane, the prime minister was met by President Machel and was greeted by enthusiastic crowds. After the airport ceremonies, Comrade Mugabe set off for Quelimane accompanied by a long motorcade. The prime minister then visited a secondary school where he was presented with numerous gifts by the students. Comrade Mugabe also visited a house where he and his wife stayed during the liberation struggle. In a speech to the crowd that had gathered at the house, he paid tribute to the people of Mozambique for their role during the liberation struggle. He said that he had brought the people of Mozambique two messages, one of greetings and another of gratitude. Comrade Mugabe said this was the first occasion that he personally was able to report that the struggle waged jointly by the peoples of Mozambique and Zimbabwe has now been won. He said the people of Zimbabwe treasured the cordial relations that exist between the two countries.

BRIEFS

ANGOLA-CUBA AGREEMENT--Luanda, 17 Oct (AFP)--Cuba will build 1,700 apartments in Angola under an agreement signed here by the Angolan and Cuban ministers of construction. Cuban technicians will also help in rebuilding Luanda's port, a mosaic factory at Huila and a ceramics factory at Huambo, according to press reports. [Text] [Paris AFP in English 0708 GMT 17 Oct 80 AB]

YUGOSLAV TRACTORS FOR ZIMBABWE--Yugoslavia has donated 60 tractors to the Zimbabwe Government. According to the Yugoslav charge d'affaires, Comrade Vujovic, the tractors will arrive at the Mozambique port of Beira on the 23d of this month. The tractors will be used in the government's scheme to resettle people displaced during the national liberation war. [Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Oct 80 CA]